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metroLIFE

# Adjusting in Anaheim

The Flames' Dennis Wideman adjusts his helmet as the Anaheim Ducks celebrate a goal during Game 1 in the second round of the playoffs. The Ducks gave the Flames headaches all night and went on to win 6-1. Story in metrosports. JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# $2 cookies to $12,000 banquets

MLA EXPENSES

## Some officials love to splurge

**Jeremy Nolais and Ryan Tumilty**
Metro in Calgary & Edmonton

There's the pricey: high-end banquets, Stampede breakfasts to feed thousands. There's the extravagant: premium-grade gas, car detailing. And there's the teeny-weeny: $2 spent on cookies, $1.89 on coffee cream.

All of the above and much more are detailed in two years' worth of Alberta MLA constituency expenses, which were first required to be made public in the fourth quarter of 2012.

That quarter, Sohail Quadri, Tory MLA for Edmonton–Mill Woods, billed taxpayers for a $12,500 Christmas party. It appears to be the largest single expense on record.

Calgary–Hawkwood MLA Jason Luan was one of three to top Quadri in total charges, racking up $41,735.

By comparison, over the same duration Edmonton–Glenora's Heather Klimchuk and Edmonton–Castle Downs' Thomas Lukaszuk kept their costs to $3,648 and $4,555, respectively.

The discrepancy is spurring calls for some MLAs to think before they splurge. "I hope these MLAs feel somewhat embarrassed that their spending is so out of whack with what some of the other MLAs are spending," said Paige MacPherson of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

*More coverage, page 8.*

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# Polls show orange wave washing across Alberta

ELECTION

## Despite surge of support for NDP, leader not banking on it

**Darren Krause**
Metro | Calgary

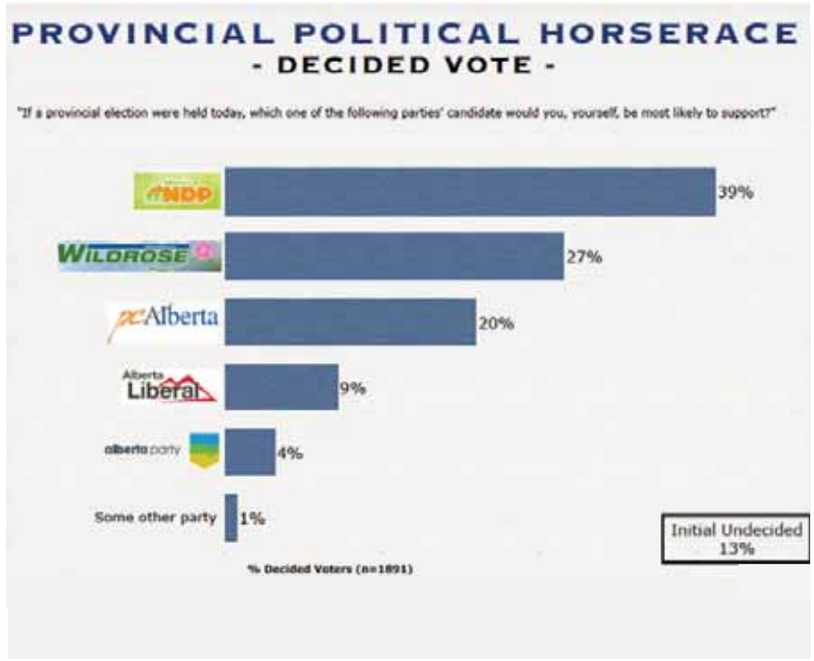
The surge of Alberta's NDP continues to swell as several polls released Thursday show their popularity sweeping across the province.

In a ThinkHQ survey released Thursday afternoon, the NDP tallied 39 per cent among decided Alberta voters, with the Wildrose at 27 per cent and the PC Party at 20 per cent.

The results are from a combined telephone and online panel from ThinkHQ Public Affairs, reaching 2,114 Albertans between April 26 and 28.

"The NDP and Notley got a real boost out of the (leaders') debate," said Marc Henry of ThinkHQ. "Their momentum numbers are really strong — the tide has jumped the levy, so to speak; it's now no longer (support) in just the Capital Region, it's spreading across the province."

Even in Calgary, where the Wildrose previously led the ThinkHQ surveys, the NDP are leading with 31 per cent.




**This graph from a ThinkHQ poll delivered yesterday was one of a number of polls released Thursday showing the NDP with a solid lead among decided voters in Alberta.** SCREENSHOT/THINKHQ POLLING

In a Return on Insight poll conducted for the CBC, the NDP scored 38 per cent of the decided vote, with the PC and the Wildrose parties at 24 per cent and 21 per cent, respectively.

Further, an Ipsos poll done for News Talk 770 and Global Calgary shows the NDP ahead among decided voters at 37 per cent, compared with 26 per cent for the Wildrose and 24 per cent for the PC party.

Duane Bratt, political scientist and chair of the Mount Royal University Department of Policy Studies, said he believes the quality of polling has improved over the course of the election campaign, and it's still showing the same type of favourable NDP results.

"If I were the PCs, I'd be very worried right now," Bratt said, adding that there's still a lot of campaigning in the final weekend.

He noted that in a Thursday speech, PC Leader Jim Prentice took square aim at the NDP. Bratt expects a heavy dose of weekend advertising to drive home the PC message to voters about the possibility of an NDP government.

And he says that while the bulk of support still lies in Edmonton, there's only 19 of 87 seats there — and there's still a swath of undecided voters.

For her part, NDP Leader Rachel Notley said the polls are encouraging, but she doesn't put too much stock in the numbers.

"As I've been saying all along, polls go up, polls go down, oil prices go up, oil prices go down. Either way, you should be prepared for it," Notley said Thursday.

"I'm encouraged by what the polls show, but I don't bank on them. I don't think most politicians do these days."

Bratt said polls in the final days of the 2012 election showed the Wildrose Party well ahead of the Progressive Conservatives, with the Tories turning the tables in the final days to hold the balance of power in government.

HOCKEY

## Voters may Flame out

What does hockey have to do with politics? Some experts say a lot.

Duane Bratt, a political scientist with Mount Royal University (MRU), said the overlap of the provincial election and the Flames game Tuesday night could have a negative impact on voter turnout.

"Most people won't be able to go to the polls before work, so they'll tend to go after work, but the hockey games starts at 7:30 p.m.," Bratt said. "I think this will have an impact on young people who are heading to bars on the Red Mile at 6 p.m. or even earlier."

Bratt also commented that with the NDP's typically younger support base, the party would be taking a hit with the predicted absence of younger voters.

NDP leader Rachel Notley said while many Calgarians will be absorbed with hockey Tuesday night, there's no reason for people to put off voting.

"There's no question a lot of people are going to want to be home in front of their TVs and I don't blame them," Notley said while in Calgary Thursday morning. "I'm really encouraging people to go out and vote early in the advanced polls."

MRU policy studies professor Lori Williams said the Flames game could have an effect on voter turnout, but that's just one of many factors.

"The enthusiasm going with the NDP might generate more turnout, but the people who are more likely to vote NDP tend to be younger, and it doesn't take much to push them off voting," she said. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

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# ‘It’s a nice to time close that chapter’

ANIMAL WELFARE

## Guzoo closed after failure to meet provincial standards

Anna Brooks
Metro | Calgary

Alberta’s controversial Guzoo is ceasing operations after failing to meet provincial standards surrounding issues like animal welfare.

Jamie Hanlon with Alberta Environmental and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) said Guzoo management informed ESRD on April 30 that they would be ceasing operations.

“Under provincial zoo standards, they (Guzoo) are required to submit and execute a decommissioning plan,” Hanlon said.

Metro’s call to the Three Hills-area zoo was met with a voice message stating Guzoo’s disappointment in having to close and that they will be dispersing all licenced and wildlife animals.

“We had wanwted the public to come and say their last goodbyes to their favourites, but the government will not allow the public here until all the licenced and wildlife animals are gone,” the voicemail relayed. “Once that happens, we hope to re-open again.”

Starting March 31, the province gave Guzoo 30 days to bring their facility up to appropriate standards after an inspection of the facility revealed concerns regarding animal care and protection as well as public and staff safety.

Rob Laidlaw, executive director of Zoocheck Canada, said he was happy to hear Guzoo is ceasing operations, after years of advocating that the owners make much-needed changes to their facility.

“It’s been a long time coming,” Laidlaw said. “We’ve always been a critic of Guzoo and felt they should either make massive improvements or close.”

With the number of concerns brought forward over the years — including images and video footage showcasing maggots in a dish of cat food and carcasses around animal enclosures — Laidlaw said, “it’s a nice time to close that chapter of the book.”

“I think originally people wanted to give Mr. Gustafson (Guzoo owner) the benefit of the doubt and hoped things would dramatically change,” Laidlaw added. “Since those improvements weren’t forthcoming over the years, we’re very pleased that they’ve been ordered to decommission.”

### WHERE NOW?

ESRD’s Hanlon said as part of the decommissioning process, Guzoo will be required to disperse all wildlife and controlled animals to registered or licenced facilities able to accept the animals. ESRD is currently waiting on a final animal distribution list from Guzoo.

**From left, Cheryl Cooper, Rob Franklin and Rebecca Smith call for the closing of The Guzoo Animal Farm in Three Hills, along with a dozen protesters at the Calgary Court Centre Monday.** KATIE TURNER/METRO

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FREE-RANGE KIDS

# Advocate backs Calgary parent of boy, 11, detained at Lego Store

Morgan Modjeski
Metro | Calgary

A free-range child advocate is calling for Lego to issue an apology after a Calgary youngster was “detained” for being too young to shop at one of its mall locations.

Lenore Skenazy, founder of the Free-Range Kids movement, has put her support behind Calgary father Doug Dunlop and is asking the toy-giant for an apology after his son, 11-year-old Tadhg, was held by Chinook Centre mall security as a result of his age, an act consistent with the company’s policy.

Now, although Skenazy called the incident an anomaly, she feels it’s a case of “worst-first thinking.”

“Somehow, when it comes to anybody’s attention that a child is free to do anything in the world, they get very nervous and people start saying, ‘Well, for the sake of the child, this or that,’” she said.

“Usually it isn’t for the sake of the child, it’s usually because an adult is freaking out that a child is allowed to do anything at all,” she said.

**A supplied photo of Lenore Skenazy, founder of the Free-Range Kids movement.** CONTRIBUTED

In a post on her website, Skenazy said it’s important, “Kids — like the elderly, the disabled, and everyone of every stripe and color — are always allowed to be part of society without being discriminated against on the false pretense of ‘safety.’”

She even went as far to give Lego some advice, saying the company should, “Apologize and give the boy a Bionicle,” a popular Lego toy.

“Quit while you’re behind, but have not yet outraged every kid in America with an allowance,” she added later.

# South Health Campus ER hasn't reduced wait times

HEALTH CARE

## Officials say discharge process to see improvements

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Two years on, it appears the city's newest emergency department hasn't put a dent in wait times for patients.

It was expected that the South Health Campus would treat 60,000 patients in need of urgent care annually. Data from the week of March 15-21 suggests it's on track, as 1,231 residents flooded into the emergency room. Over a 52-week period, that patient load would amount to more than 64,000.

Even still, the emergency-room waits at the nearest hospital, Rockyview General, haven't improved.

Since the campus opened, the number of patients treated and either admitted or discharged within the targets set by Alberta Health Services has fluctuated but hasn't trended upward.

In that reported period, 67 per cent of discharged patients and just 29 per cent of admitted patients at Rockyview were treated within the targeted timelines.

Other city hospitals, like the Foothills Medical Centre and Peter Lougheed Centre, have also seen no improvement in wait times. The Alberta Children's Hospital's emergency room has actually seen a downward slide in how quickly it's able to treat its patients.

The South Health Campus itself is also not performing as well as it did upon opening. In the reporting period, 43 per cent of admitted patients and 63 per cent of discharged patients were treated within the targeted time frame.

"South Health Campus is currently working to improve discharge process within the (emergency department) and on the inpatient units to help improve wait times and patient flow," said Lisa Sutherland, a senior communications adviser for AHS, in a statement.

Longtime Midnapore resident Deanna Hartwick said the South Health Campus isn't as busy as other hospitals she's been to, and she's not complaining.

"I've never had to go over to admitting. They get you right into the back.... It's very, very quick," Hartwick said.

She said the maximum amount of time she's spent at the hospital is two hours — and that includes seeing the doctor and being discharged.

Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley said Calgary appears to have a high number of long-term care patients who've remained in hospital when they should be transferred to other facilities.

"There's this constant (pressure); it's like you're bailing water out of a boat that's leaking," Notley said.

WITH FILES FROM DARREN KRAUSE/METRO

### IN THE ER

**Some details of the South Health Campus emergency department:**

1. The campus has 30 treatment spaces in its emergency department as well as a rapid-access unit with 20 inpatient beds for patients requiring care for up to 48 hours.
2. Currently, the campus emergency department sees an average of 175 patients per day.

**The emergency department at the South Health Campus is treating tens of thousands of patients but hasn't had a noticeable difference on wait times at other Calgary hospitals.** METRO FILE

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# Come early for best deals at bike swap

EVENTS

## Bicycles get quick safety check before going on sale

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Hundreds of bicycles are expected to be sold and thousands of people are expected to attend the Alberta Bike Swap in Calgary on Saturday.

"We take in bikes for six hours and then have a one-and-a-half-hour sale," co-organizer Chris Grant said of the annual event, now marking its fifth year in the city.

The sale is aimed at adult cyclists, Grant noted. All the bikes are given a quick technical check to make sure they're safe before being put on sale.

**The Alberta Bike Swap runs in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Red Deer.** CONTRIBUTED

"We want people to be able to buy a bike and then ride it away," he said.

The bikes are sold on consignment, with a $15-per-bike rack fee ($10 for AMA members) plus a 12 per cent commission.

Proceeds largely go toward The Good Life Community Bicycle Shop, which provides an inexpensive workshop for Calgarians to fix their rides in addition to tools and expert advice.

Grant said donations of bicycles and money are accepted.

Bikes can be dropped off between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday. The sale starts at 2:30 p.m. Cash and debit are accepted.

About 400 bikes were put up for sale last year, Grant said, and 90 per cent were sold.

The sale takes place at the City Centre Parkade, 340 - 10th Ave. S.W.

BIKE TO WORK DAY

## Try biking to work — you might like it

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you wheelie like to ride, chances are you, along with thousands of others, will bike to work Friday as part of Calgary's ninth annual two-wheeled event.

Calgary's Bike to Work Day is presented by the Balbi & Company Legal Centre each year to get cyclists on roads early and encourage healthy and sustainable commuting.

"The main thinking behind this thing is to try to get people to ride their bike to work once early in the season and see how easy and fun it is to get on your bike," said Lonny Balbi, founder of the event.

"If they do it once, maybe they'll do it once. Maybe they'll do it twice.... Maybe they'll do it year round."

With the promising weather and increased biker enthusiasm, Balbi is bracing for several thousand participants — at least that's how many they are hoping to serve at the Eau Claire market pancake breakfast.

"It could be anywhere from a few thousand to 10,000 people," Balbi said. "There's been a lot more profile on biking in Calgary with the Cycle Track Network and all that."

This year Balbi is donating $1 for each bike on the road Friday. All proceeds will go to the Nathan O'Brien Children's foundation.

Bike to Work Day is free for all to participate in. More details can be found at bikecalgary.ca

**Friday is Bike to Work Day.** ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

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Mayor Naheed Nenshi speaks to reporters Thursday about how various provincial parties' platforms relate to Calgary.
ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

# 'Vote for who you think is the best'

ELECTION

## Nenshi advises Calgarians after evaluating parties, leader

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

All of Alberta's major political parties seem like they would do a "pretty decent job" in running the province and dealing effectively with its largest city, according to Mayor Naheed Nenshi, who advised Calgarians to vote with their conscience in this election without fear of the unknown.

"Vote for who you think is best," Nenshi said Thursday, after having a chance to review the party responses to his "Cities Matter" survey and meet with all the leaders, including the NDP's Rachel Notley, who visited the mayor earlier in the day, for the first time.

"I'm actually feeling really good about the choices Albertans have in this election," the mayor added. "We have sincere, thoughtful people who appear to understand the needs of the municipality."

While it has been suggested during the campaign that a change in government could lead to "chaos," with inexperienced leaders taking over a civil service used to 44 years of PC rule, Nenshi doesn't believe that would be the case.

"I'm not suggesting don't vote for the PCs or vote for the PCs," the mayor said. "I'm suggesting the argument that government can never change is not a particularly effective one."

Nenshi said little about the specifics of his meeting with Notley, but did refer to the claim from some of her political opponents that Albertans should be scared of an NDP government.

"She did not terrify me at all," he said. The mayor also said characterizations of Wildrose Leader Brian Jean as a "robot" for his rote repetition of the Wildrose pledge to not raise taxes during the leaders' debate doesn't match with his take on the man.

"I didn't try to cut him to see if he would bleed, but he was not in any way robotic," Nenshi said of his recent meeting with Jean. The election is Tuesday, May 5.

**"I'm not suggesting don't vote for the PCs or vote for the PCs. I'm suggesting the argument that government can never change is not a particularly effective one.**
Mayor Naheed Nenshi

POLITICS

# Ralph Klein's daughter shows NDP support

A daughter of former Alberta premier Ralph Klein is supporting the NDP in Tuesday's provincial election.

Angie Klein said Thursday that her famous father may have led the Progressive Conservatives for 14 years, but it's time for a new government. The Tories have had their turn running the province, and they're not doing a good job, she said.

Her father, who died in 2013, would have encouraged her to vote for the party of her choice, she said.

"He'd say, 'Go girl,' I'm sure," Klein said in a phone interview while working in her Edmonton flower shop.

"He was a firm believer in follow your heart and, quite frankly, he was a Liberal when he ran for the PCs."

Klein admitted that she supported the NDP before and even voted for the New Democrats when her dad was in office, although she's not sure if he ever knew. They didn't talk about politics much.

Klein also appeared in a video set to rock music and posted Thursday on YouTube. Wearing an orange shirt and holding a sign for Edmonton-Centre NDP candidate David Shepherd, she says that she is very proud of many things her father accomplished as premier. "But one of the things I'm least proud of is the flat tax. I think that we should scrap the flat tax and in order to scrap the flat tax, what we've got to do is we've got to vote NDP," said Klein

"Say my staff member makes $12 an hour and someone else makes $1,200 an hour, they're taxed at the same rate. That's just ridiculous." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Tories top list of hosting costs

ANALYSIS

## Wildrose leader pledges crackdown on expenses

**Jeremy Nolais and Ryan Tumilty**
Metro | Calgary

The PC party's parties appear to cost a pretty penny when compared to those held by their opponents across the legislative floor.

A Metro analysis specifically of the hosting bills recouped by every MLA in the province from the end of 2012 to the end of 2014 revealed the top 28 big spenders all are or were members of the Progressive Conservative party.

The only outlier in the pack was Kerry Towle, the MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake, who crossed the floor from the Wildrose to the PCs late last year.

"It sounds like she's fitting into the right party," said Brian Jean, the current leader of the Wildrose.

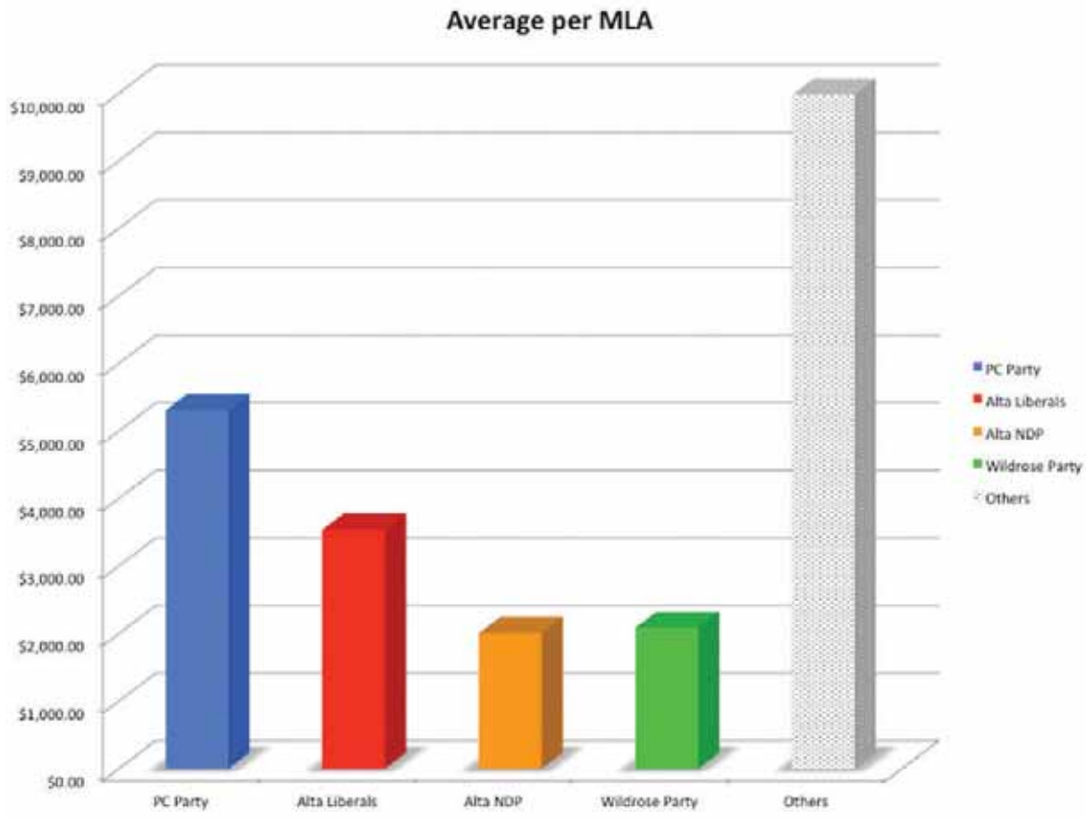
He questioned the necessity of many hosting events and said he suspects they're held for partisan reasons.

Jean said big-time banquet bills and the like wouldn't fly in Ottawa, where he previously served as a federal MP for the Fort McMurray area.

"We didn't have these kind of expense claims. We didn't have this kind of opportunity and nor should we have this kind of opportunity," he said. "It's just outrageous."

Jean said if his party forms government, "there will be none of this in the future."

"We're cutting all the perks — free gas, free oil changes, free car washes — all that stuff is gone," he said. "Other Albertans that pay the taxes don't get that stuff for free."




**This graph shows the average hosting expense per MLA, per party. The "Other" groups comprise two MLAs, Joe Anglin and Len Webber, who left their respective parties (Wildrose and PC) to sit as Independents.** METRO

Two Tories, Edmonton-Mill Woods MLA Sohail Quadri ($26,023) and Calgary-Hawkwood MLA Jason Luan ($20,836) each single-handedly spent more on hosting than the five Liberal MLA representatives combined ($17,702) and the four NDP members ($10,040).

But in an interview Thursday, Luan defended his bills, especially one for an Aging in Place Fair he helped organize last October and spent $3,000 on.

He said when he was approached about the event, organizers expected it to cost about $20,000, but he was able to secure donations and sponsorships to cut down the final tab expensed to taxpayers.

"We know the hosting was high, but the leveraged money to the community was even higher," he said.

He said the event was an opportunity to talk about the issue of seniors who are looking for help staying in their homes.

"It's helping seniors stay in our community by bringing services to our community," he said. "I know there was a will for the community, so what I did was I squeezed the budget from my office."

Luan admits the $5,000 he spent on a Calgary Stampede barbecue is also high, but he said the event attracts more than 3,000 people and the local community association picks up half the cost.

"In these tight economic times, I don't know if I am going to be able to continue offering that," he said.

In an email, PC campaign spokesperson Mike Storeshaw said the party's MLAs are all following the guidelines for expenses.

"All MLAs have the ability to host events for constituents as part of their community outreach," Storeshaw said. "MLAs have budgets for all constituency activities, allocated by the Legislative Assembly Office."

Quadri did not respond to request for an interview. But earlier this year, he stirred controversy when Metro reported on a $5,000 banquet expense claim he submitted with no details on how many people attended or what exactly the money was spent on.

Paige MacPherson, Alberta director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, said she believes MLAs should be required to foot the bill for events where they are unable to produce a proper receipt.

MacPherson said she took less issue with the teeny expenses — some MLAs bill for items like a single cookie or cup of coffee.

Still, she said: "Those are things that, if you really had top of mind that taxpayers are footing the bill, you would pay for it yourself."

Overall, the average Tory MLA spent $5,307 on hosting, compared to $3,540 spent by the average Liberal and $2,090 spent on average by the five remaining Wildrosers after the December floor-crossings.

The NDP appeared to be the most frugal when it came to hosting, with its four members spending an average of $2,008 over the past two years.

**MORE ONLINE**

For a complete breakdown of expenses accrued by MLAs, go to metronews.ca.

**$1.7M**

**Overall, over the past two years, MLAs have recouped nearly $1.7 million in constituency expenses. These bills don't cover international travel.**

**$36.44**

**Ian Donovan, the PC MLA for Little Bow, spent just $36.44 on hosting over the past four years. By comparison, Edmonton-Mill Woods representative Sohail Quadri spent more than $26,000.**

**$4,487**

**Before she resigned in 2014, former premier and Calgary-Elbow MLA Alison Redford reported $4,487 in constituency expenses.**

**$258.69**

**Danielle Smith, the former Wildrose leader who turned Tory, kept her hosting expenses in check, doling out just $258.69 for events over the past two years.**

**$5,000**

**The average MLA has spent just under $5,000 on hosting over the past two years.**

SPENDERS

## MLA expense highlights

**Alana DeLong, Calgary-Bow**
Held back-to-back banquets at Holy Smokes BBQ for 400 people in 2013 and 2014, each at a cost of $6,935.

**David Xiao, Edmonton-McClung**
Held a community open house for $4,105 at Sagar East & West Indian cuisine in late 2014. Provided no receipts or details.

**Donald Scott, Fort McMurray-Conklin**
Spent $250 getting his vehicle detailed on Feb. 2, 2013.

**Frank Oberle, Peace River**
Multiple stops at Cupid's Car Wash & Detailing in Edmonton, including one for a "truck wash" that cost $59.85 on Feb. 5, 2014.

**Gene Zwozdesky, Edmonton-Mill Creek**
Spent $8,000 at Maharaja Banquet Hall for a Christmas open house on Dec. 23, 2013. Expenses included hall rent, food and audio/video. The next year, he spent $4,000 for the same event.

**Jason Hale, Strathmore-Brooks**
Spent $2,977.28 to offset event costs for the Alberta beef celebration on Sept. 7, 2013.

**Jason Luan, Calgary-Hawkwood**
Spent more than $5,000 on his annual Stampede BBQ at the Arbour Lake Resident's Association. No receipts are in the expense disclosure.

**Jonathan Denis, Calgary-Acadia**
Spent $5,200 on premixed pancake batter and pork sausages for a July 7, 2014, Stampede breakfast.

**Moe Amery, Calgary-East**
Spent $250 getting his own vehicle detailed on Jan. 26, 2013.

**Manmeet Bhullar, Calgary-Greenway**
Spent $7,828.70 on veggie burgers, hotdogs, napkins and more for a Stampede lunch at the Don Hartman North East Sportsplex.

**Naresh Bhardwaj, Edmonton-Ellerslie**
Spent $1,250 for a constituency buffet dinner for 90 people. No reason given

STAMPEDE

# Don't miss out on all this weird food

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

If you like a little crunch with your 'za, this year's wacky Calgary Stampede midway snacks are sure to hit the spot.

Meet scorpion pizza's zesty cousin, a slice of gooey cheese pizza with extra crunch: cockroaches. The slice is branded as only being for the most adventurous foodies.

This year's list also includes giant hot-dog subs, giant dogs on a stick and something called the "Ogre Cone" — which is four litres of ice cream, enough to feed a family or a hungry, hungry stampeder.

For those with expensive taste and deep pockets comes the Dragon Dog. It's a Guinness book of records winner, taking the prize for most expensive hot dog in the world at $100. What makes it so pricey?

It's a foot-long sweet bread bun filled with a Louis XIII cognac-infused bratwurst, covered in truffle oil, Kobe beef, a dash of lobster tail and topped with a mixture of truffles, tomato and ricotta cheese.

Mmmmm … can't wait for the midway grub?

For a full list of this year's treats, head over to the Calgary Stampede blog.

**Pizza and cockroaches. How delightful.** CONTRIBUTED

# But there are so many reasons not to vote …

Mike Morrison
Metro | Calgary

We've reached that point in the election where columnists remind you of the importance of voting. But I'm not going to do that. I'm here to sympathize with the non-voters. After all, voting isn't easy. We can't do it on our phones like we can for The Voice, nor can we do it online like when we want our friends to win a free family photo shoot.

No, voting takes longer. You have to go somewhere. You stand in line, likely for up to five minutes. And sure, you do that when you go to Tim Hortons twice a day or when you want popcorn at the movie theatre or to buy a beer at the Saddledome — but in a church hall or community centre? That's just a whole different story. And there's still no beer.

Other columnists will tell you to vote because our soldiers fought and died for our right to vote. It's true: they did. They still are. But if that strategy really worked, we'd have 100 per cent voter turnout instead of 54 per cent like we did in 2012.

The fact of the matter is, we're busy. Some might say that we're all busier than ever. In places like Calgary, where it takes 30 minutes to get from one mall to the other, the day just goes by too quickly. And so many Calgarians have kids.

What are you supposed to do with them when it finally comes time to vote? Bring them with you? Show them the importance of democracy? Kids don't care about that. Kids are busy, too. You can't expect them to maybe be a few minutes late for their soccer game. Sure, there's probably never been a famous Canadian soccer player, but that doesn't mean your kid might not be the first. And if you have to miss five minutes of soccer practice, is that worth risking? No, it's not. I get it.

And fine, maybe you miraculously find five minutes to vote, but now you're expected to find more time to research who you should vote for. That ol' "I don't even know who to vote for" excuse has worked for years; why start being aware of the things happening around you now?

With a potentially historic election just a few days away, the timing couldn't be worse. The Flames are in the playoffs (and playing on the night of the vote), there's all that prep you have to do for Cinco de Mayo and those campsites aren't going to book themselves.

And anyway, the government knows you're not going to vote. I think they're banking on it.

(In the time it took you to read this column, you could have voted.)

**A polling station from a past provincial election.** METRO FILE

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# Airbnb bans guest who trashed home

VANDALISM

## Tenant caused $50K to $75K in damage to Calgary house

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police are still searching for the suspect of an Airbnb weekend stay gone wild in the city's northwest, but they won't find him at another short-term rental anytime soon.

"We have banned this guest from Airbnb," read an email statement from spokesman Jacob Kerr. "Our Trust and Safety team will offer its full assistance to law enforcement in any investigation of this incident."

Three days ago local artist Star King posted photos on her Instagram account detailing the wreck her family came home to after putting up an Airbnb renter for a weekend. A video tour through the home showed clogged toilets, torn up couch cushions, food and other fluids strewn through the home.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Cst. Atilla Horvath, who is the file investigator for the case, told reporters what they found inside the home was unlike anything he'd ever seen in his nine years on the job.

"I would say probably at least $50,000 to $75,000 worth of damage," Horvath said.

Kerr said the team is "working quickly to make this right," and have been in close contact with the homeowners to reimburse them for damages as part of their $1 Million Host Guarantee.

**A photo of the mess left behind in Star King's home after an Airbnb guest stayed there for three days.** STARYEYES1986/INSTAGRAM

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**SUNSHINE VILLAGE FROM THE SLOPES TO STEPHEN AVENUE** Kendra Scurfield flies down a snow-covered rail on Stephen Avenue on Thursday afternoon, after Sunshine Village hauled three tonnes of snow down to the street, reminding Calgarians that the slopes are open until May 18. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

EAST CALGARY

# Fire department snuffs out grass fire

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Fire burned through a patch of grass about the size of a football field in east Calgary Thursday and kicked up a lot of smoke before being quickly brought under control.

Calgary firefighters responded to the blaze in an open field east of 52 Street and south of Peigan Trail, said spokesperson Carol Henke, after receiving several 911 calls around 11:50 a.m.

"Now there's virtually no smoke," Henke said at 12:45 p.m. from the scene. "Our bush buggies and engines and fire crews have done a good job of containing it."

No injuries were reported.

It's unclear how the fire started, but Henke reminded Calgarians that a fire advisory remains in effect due to dry conditions across the city.

"We encourage people to be extra careful with open flames, discarded smoking materials, that type of thing," she said.

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# Seeking a tuition 'reset'

EDUCATION

## Mount Royal limits increases for coming school year

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

Students learning in high-end labs and studios should pay more for their education than those sticking to more pen-and-paper style classes, says the president of Calgary's Mount Royal University.

For the coming school year, the relatively young university will refrain from proceeding with the full amount of approved market-modifier tuition hikes in both its business administration ($150 per course) and nursing programs ($100).

Instead, students in both programs and the university's science offerings will shell out an extra $50 per course, but president David Docherty said he yearns for a new approach.

"I would love a tuition reset, where it's a uniform tuition across the board and you introduce fees, course-specific fees, for those more expensive programs," he said. "So, arts students aren't subsidizing students and so on — that had been our preference all along."

**Mount Royal University president David Docherty says he prefers charging a base tuition amount and then adding fees for programs that cost more to run.** METRO FILE

Currently, only new programs, such as the university's Bachelor of Interior Design, are allowed to charge additional fees. In that case, students pay an annual $1,500 for studio upkeep.

Talk of tuition has been thrown in flux in recent months after word surfaced that the province was considering changes to the tuition cap, currently tied to the rate of inflation.

There is also an ongoing provincial election, and the surging NDP party has pledged an "actual freeze" that would see student costs maintained and institutions provided extra dough to offset inflation costs.

> **We should not be taking cuts at all to post-secondary.**
> Roberta Lexier, who chairs the faculty association's advocacy committee

The Tory government did introduce a budget in late March that cut post-secondary grants by 1.4 per cent for the 2015-16 school year. But there are larger questions about a projected 2.7 per cent cut next year, as the province has said schools able to generate substantial amounts of revenue on their own may receive a smaller portion of the provincial funding pie.

This fall, Mount Royal faces a $7.3-million gap, but expects to close that through a number of measures, including reducing course sections and, in turn, boosting the number of students in some classes.

Most post-secondary advocates breathed a sigh of relief when the budget came down, as initial talk had suggested as much as a five per cent cut.

## BOW RIVER

### Body found on banks no criminal matter, say police

Foul play isn't suspected after a body washed up on the banks of the Bow River Wednesday.

Calgary police homicide investigators were on the scene searching for clues in the death, while the medical examiner undertook an autopsy Thursday.

Members of the Calgary Fire Department and the Calgary Police Service responded to the scene Wednesday after reports of a body being spotted in the water.

The fire department dispatched an aquatics team and the Calgary Police Service said the body was recovered from the river on Wednesday afternoon.

Following the autopsy, the Calgary police have determined there was nothing criminal about the death.

Since it's not a criminal matter the Calgary police will not be releasing any further information. METRO


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Staff Sgt. Steve Ellefson said patrolling the Red Mile is one of the more enjoyable jobs an officer can be assigned to.
ROBSON FLETCHER / METRO

# Police ready for spirited hockey fans

RED MILE

## While Flames face Ducks in Anaheim, fans ready to party

Robson Fletcher
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police were preparing for thousands of Calgary Flames fans to hit 17th Avenue after the team's first playoff match of Round 2, even though the weather was cool and the game was in Anaheim.

"I wouldn't be surprised if we had 5,000 or 6,000 folks out here tonight," Staff Sgt. Steve Ellefson said just before the puck drop. "But you just never know. It depends on how the game goes."

Between 10,000 and 12,000 people flooded onto the Red Mile last Saturday after the Flames defeated the Vancouver Canucks at the Scotiabank Saddledome and the crowd was, for the most part, well behaved, Ellefson said.

Police made six arrests that night for a variety of bad behaviour including harassing members of the media, public nudity, and setting off fireworks.

On the whole, though, Ellefson said the fans have been rowdy but respectful, and police have enjoyed the experience alongside them.

"Our members are having a great time interacting with the people and so far it's been very positive, overall," he said.

Sian Bunio and Carly Williams came down to 17th Avenue Thursday night "just to be in the spirit of hockey" with other Calgarians.

"This whole city comes together and we're all celebrating the same thing," Bunio said.

The friends were just nine years old during the Flames 2004 Stanley Cup run and only heard about that incarnation of the Red Mile second-hand.

> **I wouldn't be surprised if we had 5,000 or 6,000 folks out here tonight.**
> Staff Sgt. Steve Ellefson

"It honestly feels exciting to be old enough to come down and experience it, instead of just listening to people talk about it," said Williams.

"Even though people are having fun and getting rowdy, I haven't seen anything too ridiculous," Bunio added. "But I'm excited to see what it is now that we've made it to the second round. It's the next level."

ARTS

# Public space needed: artists' conference

Concerns around a lack of opportunity for discourse in the arts community has spurred on the second year of the Umbrella Visual Arts Conference in Calgary May 2.

Ginger Carlson, programming coordinator for Untitled Art Society (UAS), said providing a public space for local artists and cultural workers to share experiences and how those relate to art practices is something Calgary doesn't have enough of.

"There are always art conversations instigated by art galleries and the college and university, but there really isn't enough dialogue," Carlson said. "We're trying to engage people to talk about what's going on in the art communities here."

> **Suffering is pointless.**
> J.D. Mersault

Artist in residence J.D. Mersault said his focus during the conference will be discussing his essay, which examines suffering in art and whether or not suffering is, or should be used as, a resource to produce art.

Mersault's familiarity with suffering in art comes from a three-year period living with an untreated abscess in his jaw. Inhaling painkillers and living in constant pain, Mersault said he produced the biggest chunk of artwork in his life at that time because it was all he was able to do.

"Suffering is pointless," he said. "For me, I was in so much pain that I almost couldn't do anything else, but that's kind of lazy in a way. Because most people have access to suffering, they tend to use it as an artistic bartering chip, but that's not a reason to make art."

ANNA BROOKS/METRO

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# Events

## 1 LISA LAMPANELLI

**Friday, Grey Eagle Casino:**
Foul-mouthed comedienne Lisa Lampanelli is known for her hilarious and sometimes shocking sense of humour. A regular guest on (surprise, surprise) Howard Stern's satellite radio shows, her "Lovable Queen of Mean" title is warranted.

## 2 DEAR JOHNNY DEERE

**Friday, the Max Bell Theatre**
The music and lyrics of Canadian singer-songwriter Fred Eaglesmith is the basis of this new production from Theatre Calgary. Written by local playwright Ken Cameron, Dear Johnny Deere brings Eaglesmith's songs to life in a humorous, bittersweet way.

## 3 BRENT TYLER

**Saturday, Brent Tyler at the Inglewood Music Club**
The local musician celebrates the release of his latest album, Love Myself, at one of Calgary's newest folk clubs, located in the Lantern Church in Inglewood. Tyler will be joined by his Big Love Family Band as well as some of his favourite Calgary singers.

## 4 VOLBEAT

**Sunday, Stampede Corral:**
The Danish rockabilly metal band has slowly but surely built up a rabid fan base in Calgary, playing larger venues each time they come back. They return this time with vintage metalheads Anthrax.

# Canadian keeps the beat for Cirque

BACKSTAGE PASS

## Company offered Mercey a chance to improve skills

Lisa Wilton
Metro | Calgary

**Percussionist Christa Mercey keeps the beat going strong throughout Cirque du Soleil's production of Kurios, now playing at Stampede Park.** CONTRIBUTED

She has little stage time, but Christa Mercey plays a big role in Cirque du Soleil's Kurios.

The Canadian percussionist plays prim and proper BellaDonna, who arrives with a group of traveling musicians at the beginning of the show.

After a boisterous musical introduction, Mercey disappears into her "percussion pit" backstage.

"The show really has an upbeat party atmosphere," she says."So when we come out at the beginning, we really have to offer that to the audience and set the tone of the show. There's definitely some pressure to add that excitement. "

Kurios is Mercey's first Cirque du Soleil show and although she's performed with other high-energy companies, she says Cirque offered her a chance to improve her acting skills.

"I definitely learned some new skills and I still feel I'm learning a lot," she says.

Mercey — whose father Ray was a member of Canadian Country Hall of Famers The Mercey Brothers throughout the 1960s and '70s — has played music since she was young, and was classically trained at the University of Toronto. She'd never considered working with Cirque du Soleil until she found herself looking for work in Las Vegas, during a break from touring with Scrap Arts Music, a Vancouver-based company that creates rhythmic sounds from construction salvage such as PVC tubing, wood and metal.

"My boyfriend at the time lived in Las Vegas so I started to explore what kind of work was there and I noticed there were so many Cirque shows," Mercey says."I did an online audition and they put it in their database."

Two years after applying, Mercey received a call asking her if she'd be interested in auditioning for a new show Cirque was creating.

"There were about three rounds of auditions," she recalls.

"They'd send me instructions and I'd send them a video and they'd send me back feedback. Eventually they offered me the job and in January of 2014 we started creating Kurios.

"It's been a long time since I played in a band with other traditional, normal instruments, so this has been really different but great."

### BACKGROUND

— Kurios is Cirque du Soleil's 35th production since 1984 and features 46 performers from 15 different countries.
— The spectacle runs through May 24 under The Big Top at Stampede Park. For tickets, go to cirquedusoleil.com/kurios or call 1-800-450-1480.

JAZZYYC

## Q&A: Debra Rasmussen

UN International Jazz Day is the brainchild of jazz legend Herbie Hancock, who wanted to celebrate a genre of music he felt united people from around the world. Calgary jazz collaborative JazzYYC has organized several events to coincide with this year's UN Jazz Day on April 30. JazzYYC president Debra Rasmussen gives Metro the lowdown.

**Why is it important to put focus on this style of music, at least for one day?**
I think Herbie Hancock says it best: "Jazz really is about the human experience. It's about the ability of human beings to take the worst of circumstances and struggles and turn it into something creative and constructive."

**What have you got planned for Calgary's UN International Jazz Day?**
We have a great program this year with 43 events scheduled through May 5. On April 30 — International Jazz Day — there will be 25 events, which include jazz music and dance, radio broadcasts, concerts, talks, student performances and a children's show.

**What do you love about jazz?**
I love the rhythms and harmonies of jazz and the timeless lyrics of the great jazz standards. The way that jazz allows you to really express your individual ideas about the music, and life, really appeals to me.

LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

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CARDEL HOMES

**Computer Science student Bradley Rougeau and associate professor Mea Wang have developed a new social media app that tracks Facebook demographic data to inform page owners of the activity on their posted content.** CONTRIBUTED/RILEY BRANDT

# Student develops new Facebook app

SOCIAL MEDIA

## Tracking software gives users account analytics

**Helen Pike**
Metro | Calgary

Alanlytic geeks, listen up: There's a new Facebook app going beyond likes and comments.

Viewcount, developed by a University of Calgary master's student, can now give users a detailed breakdown of social reach.

Brad Rougeau, a University of Calgary computer science master's student, said the concept took about two years to dream up, and improves the user experience while on Facebook by divulging information known to advertisers that average joes don't tend to see.

"It's essentially the same as the Facebook photo and video viewer," said Rougeau. "But it gives you extra information about who's looking at it within Viewcount ... the one thing we don't show is the identity of who is looking at it."

The application takes numbers like view counts, age and even sex to give users a better idea of their true social reach. Rougeau even included a ranking system for those competitive-minded social media junkies.

"We have this value we call media influence," said Rougeau, "If you're getting more views from a higher number of users your value will be higher than other people and we show your global rank within everyone else on Viewcount."

The app only tracks people who use it, so the more people sign up the better the app is.

Professor Mea Wang, who supervised the project, said there are many applications for academics packed into the software. Although advertisers are already privy to Facebook user information, it could help in many different fields, offering experts hard numbers on how we're interacting with social media.

"We're interested in learning user interaction around sharing multimedia content in real life; there's simply a lack of datasets for us to analyze this," said Wang. "When developing this app, we learned Facebook does offer quite a wide range of information we can collect."

Rougeau was sure to add those who are concerned about privacy need not work about Viewcount storing information, the app only requests data from Facebook and does not keep data.

Wang said they have several hundred users, but to use the sample for research she would like to see that number in the thousands. To try out the app visit: www.viewcount.ca.

TOBACCO

# Students band against menthol

**Jennifer Friesen**
For Metro

Just over a year ago, Sophie-Charlotte Verbeke, 11, got the news that her uncle's health was falling. After years of smoking, he needs an oxygen tank to breathe.

"I was really sad, my whole family was really sad," she said. "It made me think that smoking was bad, that they should just ban smoking altogether."

On Thursday, Verbeke joined a group of her classmates from Lycée Louis Pasteur school outside of the McDougall Centre to rally behind a local group's cause to ban menthol cigarettes.

Five students from the University of Calgary formed Banding Against Menthol after learning menthol cigarettes were not included in the Alberta government's flavoured tobacco ban.

"Menthol is one of the most harmful and also one of the most attractive flavours of tobacco for young children," said Anny Yoo.

According to Les Hagen, executive director of Action on Smoking and Health, one in three youth smokers are using menthol cigarettes, adding, "It's clearly a starter product."

**Cassandra Cooper, 19, rallied with Banding Against Menthol.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

"How many thousands of kids need to get addicted to menthol tobacco before the government finally closes this gaping loophole in the legislation?" Hagen said.

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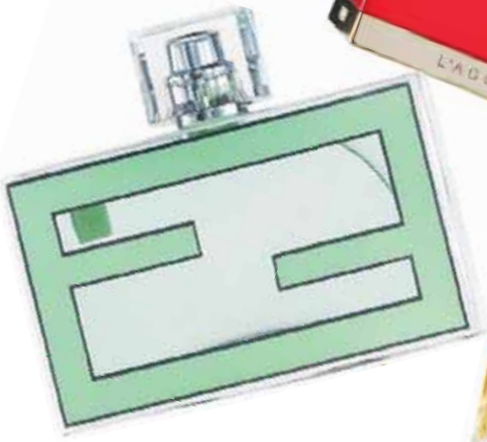

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ROBERT DZIEKANSKI

# Mountie cleared

A second Mountie has been acquitted of perjury stemming from a public inquiry into Robert Dziekanski's death at Vancouver's airport.

Const. Gerry Rundel was charged for lying during his testimony at the inquiry related to the Polish immigrant's death in October 2007.

Const. Bill Bentley was acquitted of the perjury charge in 2013, though the Crown is appealing the verdict.

Former corporal Benjamin (Monty) Robinson was convicted last month of the same charge while Const. Kwesi Millington was convicted in February and is awaiting a sentencing hearing.

The four officers were summoned to the airport when Dziekanski started throwing furniture in the international terminal, and one of them stunned him repeatedly with a Taser.

The Crown alleged the officers colluded on a story to tell homicide investigators and then lied at the inquiry to explain why their initial accounts contradicted an amateur video.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Killer dad wants out**

Allan Schoenborn promises he wouldn't attempt to escape if allowed escorted outings into the community.

It has been five years since Schoenborn was found not criminally responsible for killing his three children on account of a mental disorder.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**FUNERAL FORMER SENATE SPEAKER REMEMBERED** Family members of Pierre Claude Nolin, the late speaker of the Senate, look on as his casket is taken from the church following his funeral in Montreal, Thursday, April 30, 2015. Nolin was remembered at his funeral on Thursday as a tolerant and brave man, as well as a deeply admired politician who eschewed partisanship. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Safe-injection sites one step closer in Montreal

HARM REDUCTION

## Following provincial OK, feds must also approve plan

The Quebec government has given the green light to a project introducing facilities in the Montreal area where drug users can legally and safely inject themselves, but it's still far from becoming a reality.

Final approval for safe-injection sites rests with the federal government, which has strongly criticized offering drug users legal spaces to consume illegal substances.

In order to operate a safe-injection site, the federal government must grant an exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

In 2011, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Ottawa's refusal to renew the exemption for Vancouver's injection site — the only one of its kind in Canada — was unconstitutional because it deprived people access to potentially life-saving medical care.

> **We won't wait for the federal government forever.**
> Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre

In response, the Conservative government tabled strict new legislation on safe-injection sites giving the federal health minister discretion to approve an application only under "exceptional circumstances" and only after applicants fulfil a long list of onerous obligations.

The bill is currently being debated in the Senate.

Health Canada said in a statement that it doesn't publicly comment on applications for such exemptions and there is no timetable for a decision on permits for four Montreal sites — three located in community organizations and a fourth that will be mobile.

Canada's only legal, operating, safe-injection site — called Insite — has been operating in Vancouver since 2003.

Lucie Charlebois, Quebec's junior public health minister, said safe-injection sites reduce the risk of drug overdoses and offer other social and health benefits.

Catherine Maurice, spokeswoman for Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, said the safe-injection file "is a priority for the mayor." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Chretien defies Harper's anti-Russian stance

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Former PM meets with Putin despite tensions

Russia's news agency is reporting that former Liberal prime minister Jean Chretien met Russian President Vladimir Putin in one of his palaces near Moscow on Thursday.

The meeting is a slap to the Conservative government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which has moved to politically isolate the Russian leader, blaming him for the unrest in Ukraine and Russia's annexation of Crimea last year.

Harper has avoided direct contact with Putin, save for a brief and memorable handshake at the G20 summit in Australia last year, at which he tersely told the Russian leader to "get out" of Ukraine.

Putin is seen smiling at Chretien in a photo by the TASS news agency, that shows the two men seating in gold-and-white arm chairs in an ornate room.

**Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, meets with former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Thursday.**

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/RIA-NOVOSTI, KREMLIN POOL PHOTO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another news agency posted video of the meeting on YouTube.

"Putin and Chretien exchanged opinions on the current status of international affairs and discussed the painful points of current international situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in the TASS report.

"It's well known they have friendly relations or I'd even say relations of partnership."

There was no immediate comment from Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson or Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST NATIONS

## Reserve declares state of emergency

A reserve under one of the longest boil-water advisories in Canada has declared a state of emergency after the ferry connecting it to the outside world failed to pass inspection.

Shoal Lake 40 was cut off from the mainland a century ago to build an aqueduct which supplies the city of Winnipeg with fresh water.

The reserve, which straddles the Ontario-Manitoba border, has no all-weather road and has been under a boil-water advisory for 17 years.

Without the ferry, people on the man-made island have no way to get groceries or bottled water.

Chief Erwin Redsky says the community's survival is at stake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

LABOUR DISPUTE

## Teachers' battle goes to Supreme Court

A bitter battle between British Columbia teachers and the provincial government is headed for the Supreme Court of Canada.

The province's highest court ruled Thursday that the government did not violate teachers' charter rights to bargain class size and composition, reversing a lower-court decision in favour of the union.

The B.C. Teachers Federation said it will seek to appeal the latest decision in Canada's top court.

"All teachers are asking for are workable, teachable classrooms," said union president Jim Iker. "We're asking for the government to give us the resources that will help us do our work — teaching our students."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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POLITICS

# Tories face backlash over expensive ads

Happy-looking families, soccer-playing children and friendly neighbours are a staple of prime-time television these days as the Conservative government churns out post-budget advertising spots with the use of millions of dollars in taxpayers' money.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says it's needed to make the public aware of Ottawa's programs. But the government ad blitzes, which have cost an estimated $750 million since Harper took power, are fuelling a fierce pushback from those who see the messaging as too pro-Conservative.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) says the ads are torqued for partisan gain, are a waste of precious financial resources and an affront to democratic fairness.

"It seems to me that everyone agrees the amount that's being spent now is too much," said CTF federal director Aaron Wudrick.

The Conservatives have often been criticized for the 2013 Canada Job Grant ads, which ran long before the program was put in place. Democracy Watch, the Ottawa-based citizens' reform group, has launched a letter-writing campaign calling on federal auditor general Michael Ferguson to investigate what it calls "dishonest, wasteful ads."

Federal opposition parties have also stepped up their complaints about the television, radio, billboard and online ads in the wake of the Harper government's pre-election budget.

Criticizing the measures in the April 21 budget, the NDP's finance critic Nathan Cullen told MPs, "Canadians will be paying for the Conservative handouts to the wealthy for generations to come. Adding insult to injury, the Conservatives will actually spend $13.5 million of our money for ads on their bad ideas."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### COST OF ADS

**$52.3 million**
The 2009 budget, the Economic Action Plan, was promoted heavily in 2009-10.

**$2.5 million**
In 2013, the Harper government rolled out a campaign to promote the Canada Job Grant, a program for employment training that did not then exist.

**$24 million**
Washington, D.C., residents were bombarded with ads from the Canadian government to drum up support for the Keystone XL pipeline.

**$13.5 million**
The Tories plan to spend $13.5 million to promote their pre-election budget delivered on April 21.

**PM Stephen Harper** ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Military plagued by sexualized culture

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

## Ex-judge's report shows misogynistic behaviour

Being called an ice princess, or a slut, or told that they only joined the army to find a man: Those are just some modest examples of the misogynistic, highly sexualized culture that pervades the Canadian military and confronts its female members every day, a long-awaited sexual misconduct review said Thursday.

Eradicating that culture will take time and a concerted effort from military leadership, former Supreme Court justice Marie Deschamps said in her report — a conclusion agreed to by top Forces brass.

They part ways, however, on the question of whether the problem can be resolved within the military itself or whether it demands outside help.

Deschamps' study, made public Thursday, documented a sexualized culture that new soldiers encounter the minute they join — one so pervasive they eventually become desensitized to it.

The result is an environment where women are afraid to report allegations of sexual harassment or assault because they fear career repercussions or not being believed by their chain of command, the report found.

Deschamps said she was able to document the extent of the problem — far worse than the military had ever previously been willing to acknowledge — mainly because she's not a soldier.

"The members at present do not have the sufficient confidence to report the incidents, and one of the reasons they came to me is that they were confident they were speaking in total anonymity, they were confident they could speak to me," she said.

One of Deschamps' key recommendations is to take the existing complaint and support process outside the military bureaucracy and create an independent agency, similar to those in the U.S. and Australia.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, called the idea "unique," and "interesting" but one requiring further study. He refused to commit to establishing such an agency.

In the end, the military only outright accepted two of the report's 10 recommendations — that they acknowledge there is a problem and that a broad culture shift is required to fix it.

The remainder, which stemmed from the creation of the independent centre as the place to further overhaul existing policies and systems, were accepted only on principle.

The Forces said they are conducting several reviews to determine best practices and are promising public updates on their progress by fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Corporal Ashley Turner goes through M72 light anti-tank weapon drills at the Kabul Military Training Centre range in Kabul, Afghanistan on Nov. 4, 2013.** SGT. NORM MCLEAN/THE CANADIAN FORCES

### REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

The report involved more than 700 interviews.

It detailed rape jokes, innuendo and crude, casual references to female genitalia as some of the incidents faced by soldiers. It also provided an insight into the perpetrators.

"A commonly held attitude is that, rather than be a soldier, a sailor or an aviator, a woman will be labelled an 'ice princess,' a 'bitch' or a 'slut,'" the report said.

Maj-Gen. Christine Whitecross, who is leading the team organized by the military to respond to the report, recalled that when she joined the military, she too encountered such attitudes.

Things have improved over time, but there is a long way to go, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Pemba Tamang is carried on a stretcher after being rescued Thursday by Nepalese policemen and U.S. rescue workers from a building that collapsed five days ago in Kathmandu, Nepal.** NIRANJAN SHRESTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Two saved five days after quake

NEPAL

## Rescue brings unexpected joy to city reeling from disaster

The 15-year-old boy had been buried alive under the rubble of Nepal's quake-stricken capital for five days, listening to bulldozers clearing mountains of debris, fearful the incessant aftershocks might finally collapse the darkened crevice where he was trapped.

And then, "all of a sudden I saw light," Pemba Tamang said, recounting the moment he was pulled from a hole at the bottom of what was once a seven-story building in Kathmandu.

Tamang did not know whether he was alive or dead. "I thought I was hallucinating," he said.

The rescue was an uplifting moment in Nepal, which has been overwhelmed by death and destruction since a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Saturday.

By late Thursday, the government said the toll from the tremor, the most powerful recorded there since 1934, had risen to 6,130 dead and 13,827 injured.

After night fell, police reported another dramatic rescue: A woman in her 20s, Krishna Devi Khadka, was pulled from a building in the same neighbourhood as Tamang near Kathmandu's main bus terminal, according to an officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Nepal, however, is far from normal. More than 70 aftershocks have been recorded in the Himalayan region by Indian scientists in the past five days, according to J.L. Gautam, the director of seismology at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**Chief prosecutor in Baltimore considers charges**

Police completed their investigation into the death of Freddie Gray a day earlier than planned Thursday and delivered it to the chief prosecutor in Baltimore, who pleaded for patience and peace while she decides whether to bring charges.

The deputy commissioner also revealed a new detail that raises still more questions about what the officers involved have told investigators: The van carrying Gray to the police station made a previously undisclosed stop that was captured on a "privately owned camera."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAKISTAN

# Men get life for Malala attack

A Pakistani court on Thursday sentenced 10 militants to life in prison for their involvement in the 2012 attack on teenage activist Malala Yousafzai, a public prosecutor said.

Sayed Naeem said the court announced the ruling at an undisclosed location because of security concerns.

"Each militant got 25 years in jail. It is life in prison for the 10 militants who were tried by an anti-terrorist court," he said.

In Pakistan, 25 years is considered a life sentence.

Yousafzai was shot in the head by the Pakistani Taliban when she was returning from school. The militants targeted her because she advocated education for women. Yousafzai was initially treated in Pakistan but was later flown to a hospital in Britain, where she now lives.

Yousafzai, now 17, won world acclaim for her campaign and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Mullah Fazlullah, the Taliban leader who ordered the attack, is still at large, as are other militants who took part. The 10 who were sentenced on Thursday were detained by the military last year.

Also Thursday, the military said that 27 militants and five soldiers were killed in a gun battle in the country's volatile northwestern Khyber tribal region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IN BRIEF

**150 women, girls rescued by Nigerian military**

More women and children have been rescued from Islamic extremists in the remote Sambisa Forest by Nigerian troops. The Nigerian military first reported rescuing almost 300 women and children on Tuesday. Army spokesman Col. Sani Usman said Thursday more than 100 girls and 50 women were rescued.

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AUSTRALIA

# Opposition reaffirms death-penalty stance

Australia's political opposition accused the government of winding back the country's rejection of the death penalty during a heated debate Thursday following Indonesia's execution of two Australian drug traffickers.

The execution by firing squad of eight drug convicts, including the two Australians, has rekindled fiery criticism of the role Australian police played in 2005 in tipping off their Indonesian counterparts about a plot led by the two men to smuggle more than eight kilograms of heroin from Bali to Sydney.

The two men, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 34, were executed Wednesday. Other members of the so-called Bali Nine ring they masterminded received lengthy prison sentences.

Australia retaliated by withdrawing its ambassador from Jakarta, but ruled out downgrading its co-operation with Indonesian police, which it regards as a crucial defence against global terrorism.

Critics argue that Australia weakened its anti-capital punishment credentials when it failed to criticize Indonesia in 2008 for executing three Indonesian terrorists responsible for bombings on Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

The opposition Labour Party on Thursday accused the government of playing down Australia's opposition to the death penalty in its latest directive to the Australian Federal Police on how it should co-operate with other police forces, including that of Indonesia.

Labour questioned why Justice Minister Michael Keenan had removed from his latest directive a requirement that police "take account of the government's long-standing opposition to the application of the death penalty in performing its international liaison functions."

The directive, issued last May, outlines the government's priorities and expectations for police.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said the directive undermined protocols aimed at preventing Australian police co-operation from leading to the execution of Australians.

He told reporters that Labour wants to make sure that such executions "can't happen again."

"I'm pretty outraged and offended that the Labour Party would use the tragedy of two Australians being executed to make what is an incredibly cheap and invalid point," Keenan said.

Amnesty International said in a statement Thursday that "Australia and its agencies must take a consistent and principled stance against the death penalty in all circumstances."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**BACKGROUND**

Anti-death-penalty advocate Matthew Goldberg said Australian opposition to the death penalty has "hardened" since 2008, when Indonesia executed Bali bombers Imam Samudra, Amrozi Nurhasyim and Huda bin Abdul Haq.

# Argentinian families looking for closure

VATICAN

## Relatives hope Pope will open files on '76-83 disappearances

Family members of people forcibly "disappeared" during Argentina's 1976-83 military dictatorship are hoping Pope Francis will order the opening of files from the era.

Graciela Palacio de Lois, a member of the group Families of the Disappeared and Held for Political Reasons, said Thursday that the Argentine-born pope showed signs of wanting to release the files during the meeting.

The files contain complaints to the papal nuncio in Argentina and the episcopate by families of those disappeared during the military crackdown, including Palacio de Lois' letter denouncing the 1976 disappearance of her husband.

"The Vatican would just send us a brief reply saying they had received it," Palacio de Lois said.

> **"The Vatican would just send us a brief reply saying they had received it."**
> Graciela Palacio de Lois, regarding her complaints

But she said that when the head of her group, Angela "Lita" Boitano, personally asked the Pope to have the files released, he responded: "We're on it."

"The Pope also said they're working on that and they're preparing a document," Palacio de Lois said. She said the information was later confirmed by Monsignor Giuseppe Laterza of the Vatican secretariat of state.

Official estimates say 13,000 people were killed or disappeared in a government-sponsored crackdown on leftist dissidents during Argentina's "Dirty War." Human-rights activists believe the real number was as high as 30,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**VIETNAM CELEBRATING 40 YEARS SINCE 'THE FALL OF SAIGON'** A float depicting a tank that crashed through the gate of the presidential palace, marking "the fall of Saigon," takes part in a parade in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on Thursday, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. DITA ALANGKARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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**CRIMEA STALIN IMAGES ABOUND** A woman with balloons walks past a billboard reading "Eternal glory to the victors," sponsored by the Communist Party, in Sevastopol, Crimea, on Thursday. ANTON VOLK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Former FBI agent on trial for perjury

COURTS

## Prosecutors say man lied to help sell book on mobster

A former FBI agent lied to jurors during mobster James "Whitey" Bulger's trial and overstated his professional accomplishments, including falsely claiming to be the first officer who recovered the rifle used to assassinate Martin Luther King Jr., federal officials said Thursday in announcing a perjury case against him.

Robert Fitzpatrick, who was once second-in-command of the Boston FBI division, surrendered to U.S. marshals with his lawyer after learning there was a warrant for his arrest.

Fitzpatrick, the first witness called by Bulger's attorneys during his 2013 racketeering trial, said he tried to persuade the FBI to terminate Bulger as an informant because the mobster didn't appear to be helping its mission to gather information on the Mafia. Fitzpatrick said his bosses didn't agree with him.

Prosecutors suggested he exaggerated that claim to sell copies of a book he wrote about Bulger.

Fitzpatrick pleaded not guilty in federal court Thursday on six counts of perjury and six counts of obstruction of justice.

Prosecutors did not seek to hold him on bail, agreeing with his lawyer that he could be released on a $50,000 unsecured bond.

"Mr. Fitzpatrick adamantly maintains his innocence and looks forward to challenging the government's accusations as soon as possible," his lawyer, Robert Goldstein, said after the brief hearing.

The indictment alleges that since 1998, Fitzpatrick "has falsely held himself out as a whistleblower who tried to end the FBI's relationship with Bulger." He was accused of making false statements "designed to aid Bulger's defence."

Fitzpatrick, 75, worked for the FBI from 1965 to 1986. In 1980, he was assigned as an assistant special agent-in-charge of the FBI's Boston division. In that position, he supervised the division's organized crime squad.

Fitzpatrick did not speak during Thursday's hearing, except to say "not guilty" when asked for his plea. The conditions of his release include that he give up his passport and limit his travel to within New England.

He is due back in court on June 10 for a status hearing.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPACE

# Aborted supply pod re-enters atmosphere

The U.S. Air Force is keeping close tabs on Russia's tumbling, out-of-control space capsule as it comes closer to re-entering Earth's atmosphere.

NASA said Thursday that the Progress spacecraft, launched earlier this week with supplies for the International Space Station, is expected to plunge from orbit between May 9 and 11.

The capsule — and the upper-stage rocket used to boost it into orbit — are circling the world about 200 kilometres) lower than the space station.

The Air Force says 44 pieces of debris also are orbiting in the same vicinity. An explosion or collision involving the capsule or rocket could have resulted in the multiple pieces of junk.

Six astronauts live at the space station. Their next shipment should arrive in June.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. ELECTION

# Parties make last push

With a week to go until election day, the leaders of Britain's three main political parties are making their last big televised bid to win over undecided voters.

Conservative Leader David Cameron, Labour's Ed Miliband and Liberal Democrat chief Nick Clegg are fielding questions from voters at Leeds Town Hall in northern England — though they won't debate one another.

Cameron, the prime minister, went first Thursday, defending his government's cuts to welfare benefits and arguing that his "difficult decisions" had curbed the deficit and restored Britain's economy.

Debates have been a cause of election friction. Cameron's opponents branded him "chicken" after he agreed to participate in only one, a seven-way faceoff on April 2. Opposition leaders later held another debate without him.

Britons go to the polls May 7.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

# Building firm says no one goes faster

A Chinese construction company is claiming to be the world's fastest builder after erecting a 57-story skyscraper in 19 working days in central China.

The Broad Sustainable Building Co. put up the rectangular, glass-and-steel Mini Sky City in the Hunan provincial capital of Changsha using a modular method, assembling three floors per day, company vice-president Xiao Changgeng said.

The company, which has ambitions to assemble the world's tallest skyscraper at 220 floors in only three months, worked on Mini Sky City in two spurts separated by winter weather. Its time-lapse video of the rapid assembly has become popular on Chinese video-sharing sites since it was first uploaded on YouTube.

"With the traditional method, they have to build a skyscraper brick by brick, but with our method, we just need to assemble the blocks," company engineer Chen Xiangqian said.

Such modular approaches have been used for high-rise apartment blocks elsewhere, including in Britain and the U.S. Some critics say the method could lead to cityscapes with overly uniform architecture.

**A puddle reflects the Mini Sky City building in Changsa.** PENG PENG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liu Peng, associate director of the engineering consulting firm ARUP Beijing, said the method is worth developing because it could become a safe and reliable way to build skyscrapers rapidly.

"But it is not perfect, and it does not meet all kinds of personalized demands," Liu said. "People nowadays want more personalized architecture."

The company is awaiting approval for its 220-floor Sky City in Changsha. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Court to decide if woman can sue energy firm**

The Supreme Court of Canada will decide whether an Alberta woman can sue the province's energy regulator over her claim that hydraulic fracturing has so badly contaminated her well that the water can be set on fire.

Jessica Ernst began legal action against the regulator and Calgary-based energy company Encana in 2007.

Ernst alleges that fracking on her land northeast of Calgary released hazardous amounts of chemicals such as methane into her well and that her concerns were not properly investigated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## market minute

**DOLLAR** 82.72¢ (-0.45¢)

**TSX** 15,297.04 (-50.30)

**OIL** $59.57 US (+0.99¢)

**GOLD** $1,182.60 US (-$27.40)

**NATURAL GAS:** $2.751 US (+14.5¢)
**DOW JONES:** 17,928.77 (-106.76)

**EMPLOYMENT GM PLANS TO CUT 1,000 JOBS FROM OSHAWA PLANT** A sign outside Oshawa's General Motors car assembly plant is shown in Oshawa, Ont. General Motors says it will cut about 1,000 positions from its Oshawa manufacturing operations this year as the company plans to spend billions of dollars to boost its U.S. operations. By December, GM Canada's main assembly operation is expected to have 2,600 hourly employees — down from 3,600. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# New Canadians less of a credit risk: Study

BANKS

## National rates for delinquency 20% lower in immigrants

New Canadians are a better credit risk than the general population, even though banks still tend to view immigrant investors more cautiously due to a lack of financial background information, says a new Equifax Canada study.

"There is a common misconception that providing credit to new immigrants is a risky move for financial institutions, but the fact is that immigrants have a 20 per cent lower delinquency than the national average of the general population," explains Regina Malina, senior director of decision insights at Equifax Canada.

In her latest report, she says lenders often approach new Canadians with caution, and wind up presenting these customers with a limited product selection for credit due to a lack of insight into their credit history and risk score.

As a result, limited credit options tend to push customers to seek credit with another institution because the initial options available to them may not meet their changing needs.

Between 2006 and 2011, approximately 1.2 million people immigrated to Canada, primarily from China and India, and one of the first things newcomers do is apply for credit to secure housing, car loans and phones, she said.

The study is based on a sample of approximately 114,000 new immigrants identified within the Equifax database, who immigrated to Canada between 2010 and 2011. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE


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WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

# Happy face/Sad face

From the **drought diet** to **lunchbox letdown**, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week

### Bright lights banned on behalf of birds

New Yorkers are saying "lights out" to bright outdoor lights on government buildings between 11 p.m. and dawn during the spring and fall to help migrating birds find their way. Scientists believe birds use the stars to navigate, but they can be disorientated by electric lights, causing fatal run-ins with glass windows — the direct cause of a billion bird deaths per year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Is it time to say adios to avocados?

The drought in California is taking a toll on crops like almonds and broccoli, but hardest hit may be avocados. Farmers pay premium prices for increasingly rare water, and avocados are thirsty — a pound needs 72 gallons to grow, compared to nine for tomatoes. If the drought continues, avocado prices will skyrocket — if they're available at all. If you love guacamole, maybe now's the time to binge. GRUBSTREET.COM

### What your brain looks like on flakka

A spate of bizarre incidents in Florida have been blamed on Flakka, a synthetic drug similar to bath salts. One user ran around naked yelling he was Thor; another impaled himself on a fence. The drug, also called gravel, is cheap at $5 per vial, causes delusions and is dangerous: the people who spontaneously strip do so because the drug causes a spike in body temperature to a life-threatening 41 C.

### That's the way the cookies don't crumble

A four-year-old girl in Denver came home from school disappointed, with untouched Oreos and a note from her teacher. The preschooler told her mom that she wasn't allowed to eat the cookies in her lunchbox because they weren't healthy enough. The note told her parents to pack a nutritious lunch that includes a fruit, vegetable and a healthy snack.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Selfie sticks — please leave home without one

THE KOHLER REPORT
**Rebecca Kohler**

Organizers of Grand Slam tennis tournament, Wimbledon, announced this week that they will be banning selfie sticks from this year's event and I say, "Point Wimbledon!"

If you don't know, selfie sticks — sometimes referred to as "The Wand of Narcissus" or "narcissisticks" — are long poles to the end of which one attaches their smartphone, allowing for better, wider selfies.

The first time I saw a selfie stick in a store I thought it was a gag gift, akin to those wine glasses that hold an entire bottle of wine or fake doggy-doo.

When I realized it wasn't a joke, I wondered who could be SO dedicated to taking pictures of themselves that they needed a tripod — or uni-pod — to do it?

It's like investing in equipment for a company named Self-Love Incorporated.

I'm not saying I've never taken a selfie. Like smoking, it's the kind of thing most people have tried at least once — and those who haven't are probably boring and self-righteous like the people who brag about not being on Facebook.

And selfies can be really handy. Like when you're buying new glasses and you want a friend's opinion, or when you have a weird rash and need your mother's advice (it was eczema).

But on a recent trip to Mexico, I realized how out of hand the selfie and selfie-stick situation was. My boyfriend and I paid $150 each for a tour to the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza. When we got off the tour bus, I saw a flurry of selfie sticks extending around me like a crowd of unfurling umbrellas reacting to a sudden rainstorm.

## When did a picture of yourself in a place become more important than the place?

The earnest and well informed tour guide proceeded to show us around the grounds but upon each stop, half the group would walk away and proceeded to take selfies in front of the various dilapidated monuments.

It seemed so utterly wrong. "Here I am at Chichen Itza! A place I know nothing about because instead of learning, I choose to bask in self-admiration!"

It's like they'd paid $150 to be doing the exact same thing they do at home — stare at images of themselves. Except here they were able to spend more money doing it in a hot and dusty place.

It was distracting and super disrespectful, both to the tour guide and, frankly, to the late Mayans. But the most irritating part is that on Facebook, all these people will look less like the arseholes they are, and more like worldly, interested travellers.

When did a picture of yourself at the place become more important than the place? And if that's all you want, then go visit a green screen and have at 'er.

---

**Rebecca Kohler** is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

# ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

**metroview**

## "A searing portrait of harassment, abuse and rape"

We now know — beyond doubt — that military life is soaked in sexual harassment.

A report released Thursday details in 100-odd pages a sick "sexualized culture" in the Canadian Armed Forces. It's a searing portrait of harassment, abuse, rape and the silencing of victims.

But no perpetrators are held accountable in this report. It's focused on "policies, procedures and programs" around sexual misconduct and condemns all three.

Author and former judge Marie Deschamps wasn't asked by military brass to investigate assaults. They think they're already doing a good job with that. The report says they're wrong, and I can't understand why her recommendations don't call for a full investigation into cases that have been, as her report details, swept under the rug by a farcical complaints-resolution policy that treats sex crimes as misunderstandings.

Without that, military leaders, and criminals, can hide behind "the culture" — with no accountability in the ranks.

Culture is a wispy, hard-to-pin-down fog that lays blame on everyone and no one.

Gen. Tom Lawson, chief of the defence staff, and Maj.-Gen. Chris Whitecross — the woman tasked with implementing change — both admitted during a press conference to witnessing a sexualized work environment, something Lawson said "became uncomfortable" when women joined the ranks.

Deschamps documents "sexual jokes, innuendos, discriminatory comments ... and unwelcome sexual touching," which are conducive to "sexual harassment and assault."

One man told Deschamps, "girls that come to the Army know what to expect."

Military women (and LGBTQ) must conform to this environment, because filing complaints would risk their careers, the report says. Most choose the jobs they love over justice. They can't have both.

Lawson did promise change. "I will not accept anything less" than exemplary conduct, he said.

But from the gist of the report, he'd have a pretty barren barracks if every officer who didn't live up to his "exemplary" standards was expelled.

Maybe a truth and reconciliation program is needed, where senior officers and others admit to and apologize for their own behaviour without fear of reprisal.

Phillip Millar, a former officer and now a lawyer who represents military sexual assault victims, said such a program could mean a meaningful change in tone from on high. Otherwise, no one is going to admit to anything, he told me.

"Influential people, respected and good people, have allowed or engaged in it," he said. Given that, we shouldn't be surprised that "culture," not people, will be blamed.

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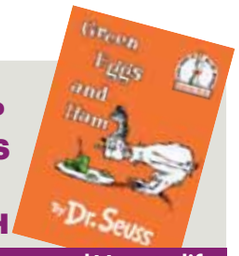


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You can watch it in your house, you can watch it with a mouse! Netflix to bring Green Eggs and Ham to life

# Superheroes need a reality check

ANALYSIS

## Real-world problems could provide poignant plot points for flicks

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

It's not a spoiler to let you know the Avengers save the world in Age of Ultron. The spectacular six have rescued the planet before and, no doubt, will save it again in the future. In superhero movies the globe is always on the eve of destruction.

The original movie, 2012's The Avengers, saw the team protect the planet from Thor's evil brother Loki while in Superman II, the Man of Steel battles three Kryptonian criminals set to obliterate our orb. A baddie named M tries to wage world war in The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen and recently the Fantastic Four prevented a giant cosmic entity called Galactus from gobbling up the earth.

"I see a suit of armour around the world," says Tony Stark in Age of Ultron. "Peace in our time, imagine that."

The movies get bigger every time out and with 30 more superhero flicks scheduled for the next five years — including Deadpool, Doctor Strange and Gambit — the mind reels at the ways villains might endanger our world. It sounds entertaining but haven't we've already been there? Where do you go from the threat of total annihilation?

Diminishing returns in terms of audience reaction, that's where.

We all know The Avengers will pull out all the stops to save Earth. Buildings will crumble, trucks will go airborne and giant cracks will appear where city streets used to be, but by the end credits you know everyone will emerge relatively unscathed, with the bad people vanquished and the good guys grinning from ear to ear.

Viewers are left with CGI fatigue, but damn it, a catastrophe was averted. Again.

But we've been there, done that. Why not freshen things up and turn back the hands of the doomsday clock a few minutes to create tension in the form of different kinds of situations?

It sounds counterintuitive — bigger is always better, right? — but imagine Captain America going mano a mano with Kim Jong-un or Iron Man shrinking down to the size of a microbe to battle cancer from the inside à la Fantastic Voyage.

The real world is a very complicated place. Every day the news delivers more bad information than all the tragedies of Aeschylus and Sophocles combined.

Stories of beheadings, terrorism and all manner of terrible behaviour flood the airwaves aching to be corrected by some sort of superhero.

**What if the moviemakers pitted superheroes against the Canadian Senate or other things that trouble us in our day-to-day lives?** CONTRIBUTED

How great would it be to see warrior princess of the Amazons Wonder Woman unleash the Lasso of Truth on the Canadian Senate or weather maven Storm get all medieval on climate change?

An injection of real-world issues might not make for big box office, but it certainly would infuse the movies with a sense of unpredictability — just like real life events. Real life is messy and volatile and that's what keeps it interesting.

I understand one of the reasons we go to movies like The Avengers: Age of Ultron is to see things we'll never witness in real life, but it's hard not to agree with Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) when he says:

"We're fighting an army of robots and I have a bow and arrow — it makes no sense!"

These movies try to dazzle our eyes — and they do! — but bringing them down to earth, literally, might help us engage our brains as well.

### MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

**Avengers: Age of Ultron** ★★
**Far From The Madding Crowd** ★★★
**Ride** ★★★
**Preggoland** ★★★
**Can't Stand Losing You: Surviving The Police** ★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

SEQUEL

# Avengers stars share fun facts on new flick

**Ned Ehrbar**
Metro | Life

The followup to 2012's massive The Avengers promises to be even more gargantuan, with new superheroes, more story to tell and a one really shiny, really deadly villain. So here's what you need to know going into Avengers: Age of Ultron.

1 **Black Widow did not do her own stunts.** "I don't think you're allowed to ride a motorcycle when you're still pregnant," Scarlett Johansson says. "I embarrassingly rode some sort of a mechanical bull type of motorcycle which goes nowhere and doesn't look cool at all. But we had some very professional and amazing motocross work being done that makes Black Widow look like a total badass."

2 **Iron Man didn't do any meddling.** According to franchise star Robert Downey Jr. — who kicked off the whole Marvel Cinematic Universe deal seven years ago with Iron Man — he didn't have to do any meddling with the script this time around. "I read (Joss Whedon's) script, I said, 'I think this is great.' (Marvel honcho) Kevin (Feige) said, 'You never say that, you can't mean that,'" Downey recalls.

3 **James Spader got a crash-course in Marvel movie-making.** The Blacklist star embodies the chillingly evil robot Ultron bent on destroying the Avengers — and humanity in general. And he barely had any time to get into character. "Luckily I'd had some conversations with Joss and one fantastic meal with a whole bunch of wine to figure out who this guy was," says Spader.

4 **There are secrets the cast can't divulge.** Mark Ruffalo, who stars as the Hulk, says their studio bosses have ways of making them not reveal spoilers. "You know, we have a Marvel app on our iPhones and if you say something wrong it literally shocks you," he says. OK, maybe they don't really, but we wouldn't put it past them.

**Fact: Scarlett Johansson was pregnant during filming, so she did not do her own stunts in Avengers: Age of Ultron.** HANDOUT

# Heroine not defined by era

ADAPTATIONS

## Carey Mulligan drawn to her character's strength

**Matt Prigge**
Metro | New York

Carey Mulligan says she wasn't really looking to do another period drama when Far from the Madding Crowd came along.

She's always done them, however, the role of Bathsheba Everdene — a headstrong, independent woman juggling three suitors to whom she's either indifferent or weirdly into — was too good to turn down.

The actress talks about how this Thomas Hardy adaptation was different and whether she'd ever do something bigger and splashier.

**The uniqueness of Bathsheba Everdene:** What I was so excited about was that it's a story that started with a woman who turned down a proposal of marriage. And a good one.

It's a young woman in one of the Victorian classics that doesn't start her story looking to be married and isn't looking to be defined by a man. It really hasn't crossed her mind that she would be married.

That was so exciting. That was obviously not the viewpoint of most women of the time. And throughout the story she enjoys bucking social conventions. She's incredibly complicated and stubborn and fallible and spontaneous and impetuous — all these things mixed together.

**On the other actors:** When you get to work with actors like this, there's a certain security — especially when you make an idiot of yourself in the first week, which is what I did.

**On director Thomas Vinterbergh:** We had so many extensive, long conversations, going around and around on things. And Thomas said things over and over and over again. It was really annoying. By the time we were on set we were set on an idea. It was a complete collaboration between all of our ideas. I was never going to fall into some kind of stereotype.

**Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba Everdene in Far from the Madding Crowd.** HANDOUT

**On the costumes:** We wanted to feel like real people and not actors wearing outfits, not people wearing makeup — but still vaguely attractive in daylight.

We never wanted it to feel like a buttoned-up costume drama, where people wear outfits and look uncomfortable. It was about real people. The way Thomas shoots it's all about performances. The era is reflected in the costumes. The makeup and the hair, because we were outside all the time, could get ruined immediately.

It had to be endurable and functional. But they always made us look good, which was a bonus.

**The idea of her ever taking an action movie role:** Never say never to anything. The decisions I've made over the last couple years have been driven by the characters and the scripts and the directors.

I'm always drawn to really strong characters, but also characters that have a lot to them. I'm not really interested in playing two-dimensional people.

But what's amazing about Bathsheba is how complex and mixed-up and strong and resilient — she's just so many things in one. That's what I'm driven by. And if that came in the form of some action hero, then of course, that'd be great. But it might not happen.

# A dish that's Far from the Madding Crowd

COOKING

## A simple lamb leg inspired by a classic Victorian novel

MY TV DINNER

**Jessica Allen**

**Jessica Allen, the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social, faces two important questions every day. What's for dinner? And what to watch while she eats? Every Friday she'll free associate food, film and TV and discover that the answer to one question is usually found in the other.**

**Jessica tried her hand at a traditional recipe of lamb with rosemary #oldskool #careymulligan #farfrommaddingcrowd.** FILM IMAGE CONTRIBUTED/LAMB IMAGE JESSICA ALLEN

I've never read any Thomas Hardy. I've also never cooked lamb. These two truths are related. Bear with me.

The most recent film adaptation of Far from the Madding Crowd — Hardy's fourth novel, which enabled him to quit his architectural day job — hit theatres Friday.

There are as many film versions you can watch at home as there are sheep in a herd. In the newest film, Carey Mulligan stars as Bathsheba: the kind of woman who "was indispensable to high generation," Hardy wrote of his heroine, who "was hated at tea parties, feared in shops, and loved at crises." Like a gender-reversed Judgement of Paris, Bathsheba must choose between three suitors: a sergeant, an older (and richer) bachelor, and Gabriel Oak, a sheep farmer.

That brings me to lamb, which, like many Canadians, I didn't grow up eating. My mom used to broil lamb chops for herself. But she knew we'd turn up our noses at something more exotic than Hamburger Helper. The Oxford Companion to Food suggests that on account of the distinctive taste of lamb fat, domesticated young sheep meat has never been as popular as pork, beef and chicken in North America.

Here's the thing: I don't dislike lamb. But I've never gone out of my to eat it. I'm inexplicably finicky about it — as stuffy as Hardy's Victorian crowd who disapproved of his lascivious prose that dared to suggest women aspired to more than marriage. Like Bathsheba, I had to make a decision: And I decided to make a Sunday lamb dinner.

I would turn to British food writer Nigella Lawson's How To Eat for a recipe: her marinated butterflied leg of lamb with garlic potatoes to be precise. I also bought peas. (English peas, obviously.) Although it was a first for me, the dish counts as one of Lawson's "most regular regulars," which she prepares year-round — outside over a grill if the weather permits it. On Sunday, it did. So I marinated the flayed leg, which resembled something from Ridley Scott's Alien, in olive oil, lemon zest, smashed garlic cloves and minced rosemary.

I grilled the fatty side first. It effortlessly crisped up — almost caramelized — and it smelled of the woods. It was all so glorious that I texted my partner Simon, who works on Sundays. "It's happening!" I said. " I am making the lamb!!!!"

The dinner could've easily fed four. But we chose to make it a dinner for two. I'd like to think that Hardy, who grew up in County Dorset, where heritage breeds of sheep are plentiful, would approve. Plus — and forgive me for the 141-year-old spoiler alert — he married Bathsheba off to the sheep farmer.

SEPARATING INFORMATION AND JOURNALISM

# Sometimes it's better to lose the news race

**Mike Donachie**
Metro | Toronto

**Fidel Castro and Joni Mitchell were both the subject of death rumours this week.** RIGHT: AFP/GETTYIMAGES; LEFT: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Joni Mitchell lapsed into a coma on the day Fidel Castro died. Except she didn't, we think, and he didn't. Probably.

Welcome to the world of the celebrity death rumour, and its terrifying effect on newsrooms.

This week, The Associated Press reported the 71-year-old folk singer was in a bad way.

So, in pursuit of web hits and knowing celebrity sells, news organizations across the world ran the story, until Mitchell's social media people tweeted that she was fine, thank you, despite a stay in hospital. Cue hasty corrections, then conflicting reports about the singer's condition, which may or may not be serious, depending on whom you ask.

Meanwhile, rumours of the death of Castro, everybody's favourite cigar-chomping threat to freedom, swept this newsroom. To be fair, Castro has been sick for a long time, so it might happen soon. But, at the time of writing, he isn't dead. I think.

Fellow death hoax targets Jon Bon Jovi, Jeff Goldblum and Charlie Chaplin are also still alive. Oh, wait. Not Chaplin. But Morgan Freeman dies about twice a week.

Social media may be feeding this, but the power of rumour is not new.

Mark Twain's famous statement about reports of his death being "greatly exaggerated" was made after a newspaper report in 1897, for example. Then there's the persistent nonsense about why Paul McCartney was barefoot on the Abbey Road cover, and whether he'd kicked the bucket and been replaced by another left-handed bass player who looks a bit like Angela Lansbury.

We love rumour, but it's a source of consternation for journalists.

As long as humans exist, there will be glee at hoodwinking others. But in this fast-moving world, there's never been a greater need for checks; just ask the Associated Press.

Social media may dominate our lives, but it should never dominate our thinking. The Joni Mitchell error shows the value of reading proper news sources and recognizing the difference between information and journalism. Sometimes it's better to lose a race, and to be trustworthy.

Just don't forget to tweet me if you see Elvis.

## IN BRIEF

**Twitter starts its own food account**

Given the volume of food-related Twitter chatter — from chefs, critics, restaurateurs and food lovers — the micro-blogging site has announced plans to officially join the conversation with its own official @TwitterFood account. Within a day of launch, @TwitterFood has gained more than 6,000 followers. AFP

**Starbucks wait times get shorter with pilot project**

Time-crunched, caffeine-deprived New Yorkers are getting express Starbucks stores designed to shorten wait times thanks to "mobile" points of sale in a newly launched pilot project.

Not far off the heels of the opening of its Reserve Roastery and Tasting Room in Seattle (pitched as the Willy Wonka theatre of coffee), the coffee giant has announced plans to open several express format stores, starting in the heart of New York's Financial District.

At 538 square feet (50 square metres), the first store, located on the ground floor of the Fourteen Wall Street Building, is small and compact. Or as Starbucks calls it, an "espresso shot" version of the traditional store experience.

It seems fast food giant McDonald's is also toying with the idea of even faster food. Last year, there were reports of an outlet in California quietly testing out a new concept that allowed customers to build their own burger by placing their orders on tablets. AFP

MILLENNIALS

# Refinery29's video content has an edge

Refinery29, the digital lifestyles company focused on millennial women, is pushing deeper into video content with a harder news edge.

Known for fashion, style and beauty, the company said this week it is collaborating with a variety of production companies to expand in documentary, scripted series and health, food and wellness tutorials.

"We're going to take some risks. There's going to be some topics that some consider risky," said Amy Emmerich, executive vice-president of programming.

In partnership with Planned Parenthood, celebrities such as Lena Dunham and Jack Antonoff will explore men's and women's reproductive health issues in Her Shorts, a series of scripted films.

Kassidy Brown and Allison Rapson, co-founders of We Are the XX, will travel around the world seeking out women revolutionaries, leaders and activists on the front lines of feminism.

A third, co-produced with wifey.tv (founded by Jill Soloway and Rebecca Odes), is a dark comedy called The Skinny. It follows a feminist comedian in Los Angeles as she tries to "live, love and get over her bulimia."

Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky were behind Web Therapy and are teaming on S*!tty Boyfriends and the love struggles of Amanda.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Host of Style Out There Asha Leo attends a Refinery29 event.** GETTY IMAGES

# Canada's dining scene is sizzling

JOËL ROBUCHON

## Superstar French chef picks Montreal for his new restaurant

French chef titan Joël Robuchon, who boasts bragging rights to holding the most Michelin stars in the world, has become the latest culinary superstar to set his sights on Canada with the opening of a new restaurant in Montreal.

After Paris, London, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Las Vegas and Singapore, Robuchon has announced plans to open his first Canadian outpost of L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon at the Casino de Montreal.

Citing the city's burgeoning culinary landscape, Robuchon said in a statement that he'd been planning the opening for some time. The Montreal restaurant is set to open its doors in spring of 2016.

In recent years, culinary heavyweights have woken up to Canada's dynamic dining scene and increasingly sophisticated palate.

British food TV star Jamie Oliver, for instance, has chosen Toronto to be his first North American restaurant location. Jamie's Italian is set to open this year at Yorkdale Shopping Centre, a major retail complex.

**A table at La Grande maison in Bordeaux, France, a collaboration between Robuchon and French wine producer Bernard Magrez.** NICOLAS TUCAT/AFP/GETTY

In 2012, Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud opened his first Canadian eatery at the Four Seasons in Toronto, while one of New York's favourite young chefs, David Chang, brought his Momofuku empire to the city in the same year.

Meanwhile, the arrival of several high-profile, elite chefs in Canada could help bring the country out of culinary anonymity.

The reverential red book, the Michelin guide, sends no inspectors to the country, which is also snubbed by the World's 50 Best Restaurants list, a ranking that aims to capture the zeitgeist of the gastronomic world.

To fill the void, local food experts chimed in to create their own domestic ranking, Canada's 100 Best Restaurants, which was published this spring. Topping the list is Toqué! in Montreal. AFP


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# The Hunt for the perfect break

INTERVIEW

## Helen Hunt hangs ten in her new film about surfing and self discovery

**Steve Gow**
Metro | Life

For her latest movie, Helen Hunt was energized by a hobby she took up relatively late in life to break free from her comfort zone — surfing.

"My inspiration was hearing the phrase 'soccer mom' — all these mothers and fathers sitting on the sidelines while their kids play and have fun," admitted Hunt recently from L.A.

"I thought it would be very funny to write this woman who's so twisted up in her own intellect and (imagine) where would she feel the least comfortable."

In the comedy Ride, which Hunt wrote and directed, she stars as the stiff-necked New Yorker who winds up in California chasing her 20-something surf-seeking son after he drops out of college.

There, the bullheaded matriarch soon finds herself carving up some gnarly breakers as well.

"It's the simplicity of the sport," the 51-year old star explained of her real-life allure to surfing.

"All you need is a plank of wood or fibreglass and then your teammate or opponent — depending how you look at it — is this giant unpredictable thing that Mother Nature made.

"It's hard to think of anything more compelling."

Hunt admits directing her second film (after 2007's Then She Found Me) was not a simple task, however.

Spending up to eight hours a day being crushed by coastal waves was physically, even mentally demanding.

"On the other hand," added Hunt, "I felt like I was playing."

Interestingly, the twice Oscar-nominated actress (winning in 1998 for As Good As It Gets) points out the most difficult part of filming in water was actually the sound.

"Where I really screwed myself is I wrote eight pages of dialogue in water and there's a reason why people don't do that very often — it's really hard to shoot," said Hunt. "I just hope people can hear what I wrote in there."

Ride opens in theatres May 1 and will be available On Demand May 12.

### ON LOCATION

**The toll of shredding**

For Hunt, there was a lot of physicality involved in making a surfing movie. "It's wonderful and terrible as I tried to show in the movie," said Hunt. "There were days I just came home and I was shivering head to toe and I wasn't cold — I think it was just exposure or something."

**Helen Hunt and Luke Wilson star in Ride.** CONTRIBUTED

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Kathryn Alexandre (left) plays Tatiana Maslany's acting double on the sci-fi series Orphan Black. BELL MEDIA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Kathryn Alexandre's crucial, faceless role

TELEVISION

## Orphan Black acting double on her clone career

Toronto actress Kathryn Alexandre likes to tune in to Orphan Black with her family members every week to see if they can spot her.

"They're like, 'Is that you? That looks like your shoulder. Those are your hands,'" she says with a laugh.

As the acting double for star Tatiana Maslany, Alexandre's face is never seen in the hit Space clone drama, which airs Saturdays at 9 p.m. ET.

She acts opposite Maslany whenever a scene involves more than one of her clones, so that the star can react properly to the character.

"It's a lot easier for Tatiana, for the other actors that are in the scene with us, and for the crew to see the other clone materialized in a person, as opposed to a stand," says Alexandre, 25.

She mimics whichever clone is in the scene with Maslany and has to know all the lines, mannerisms, accents and the backstory of that character. She also has to wear their costumes and wigs and know their precise blocking marks on set.

But for the most part, she doesn't have an on-screen presence due to the magic of filmmaking — save for a body part here and there.

"It's such an interesting role and it's such a great challenge as an actor," she says.

"Really, your entire job is to give the other person as much as you can give them and be the best that you can be for them to be the best that they can be.

"So it's a really great, ego-less job that's such a gift as an actor, to not really have to worry about your face being on camera. It's all about the connection with your fellow actor."

Alexandre, who was born in Hamilton and grew up in Ancaster, Ont., was fresh out of theatre school when she went for several auditions for the role of Maslany's double.

"I didn't really have any on-camera experience before this," she says. "Little short films and that kind of thing, but this kind of threw me headfirst into the most technical role I will probably ever have. So it's been a great learning curve."

She got the part not only because of her acting skills, but also because her height, weight, skin colour and hair were similar to Maslany's.

"I had shoulder pads for the whole first season to try and bring my shoulders up a bit," says Alexandre. "There are little hidden things that are all throughout to try to make us as similar as possible." THE CANADIAN PRESS

## BOOK NOTES

**30 writers sign protest letter over PEN award**

Criticism of the PEN American Center's decision to honour the French magazine Charlie Hebdo continues as more than 30 writers, including Junot Diaz and Joyce Carol Oates, signed a letter this week calling the award "particularly disheartening." The protesting writers have cited what they consider Charlie Hebdo's offensive cartoons of Muslims. PEN is awarding Charlie Hebdo a freedom of expression prize. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT

## MP suggests U2 cover is gay 'propaganda'

A member of Russia's parliament has asked prosecutors to determine whether Apple violated Russia's ban on gay "propaganda" when it delivered U2's latest album to a half-billion iTunes users for free last year.

Izvestia, a newspaper loyal to the Kremlin, reported Wednesday that it has a copy of Alexander Starovoitov's appeal to prosecutors in which he says the cover of the album Songs of Innocence shows two men "in a display of non-traditional sexual relations."

In fact, the cover shows the band's drummer embracing his 18-year-old son, both of them shirtless.

It is not yet clear whether prosecutors will open an investigation.

Some of those in Russia who ridiculed Starovoitov's appeal drew a comparison to the time in 2006 when President Vladimir Putin kissed a small boy's bare stomach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# TLC abandoning its 'freak show' brand

NETWORK

## Channel hopes to add more heart and soul in new shows

**Here Comes Honey Boo Boo was a ratings winner for TLC — before it crashed.** JOHN BAZEMORE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stepping away from the stage after outlining TLC's future plans one recent morning, Marjorie Kaplan used the phrase "freak show" before anyone else could. It's an image the network chief wants TLC to stay away from.

Yes, Honey Boo Boo is in the rear view mirror. The Gosselin children still appear occasionally, but there's no more divorce drama with Jon and Kate. TLC's latest star, Whitney Thore of My Big Fat Fabulous Life, is someone to root for.

The network's shows fit broadly under an umbrella of family, style and life milestones, and Kaplan's presentation exuded calmness and warmth.

"It's kind of a relief to go back to something with a sense of purpose," Kaplan, a veteran Discovery Communications executive who also oversees Animal Planet, said in a later interview. "The further the brand went from being The Learning Channel, the harder it got for people to see the purpose."

Brands are important to Kaplan, who found it frustrating that while studies showed people tended to like TLC's programs, they had no sense of what TLC stood for.

Asked about TLC a couple of years ago, the first image to pop into people's heads would have been Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson, a kid from rural Georgia prone to catchphrases like "a dolla makes me holla." TLC surfed the wave of that cultural phenomenon until it crashed, cancelled last fall with a new season already in the can after reports surfaced that Thompson's mother was dating a man with a criminal past.

An attention-getting show like Here Comes Honey Boo Boo is a boon in ratings and revenue. The risk is whether its cheesiness — and the bad publicity when things go south — take a toll on a network's reputation.

The bigger danger is that hits that burn bright tend to burn out fast, leaving a struggling network in the ashes, said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture.

"People are not deciding whether or not to watch a program based on a network's reputation or bad publicity," he said. "They're watching the shows because they like to watch them."

TLC's ratings have been fairly steady, at least in comparison to the steep drops seen by other cable networks lately. It is averaging 919,000 viewers in prime-time this season, down from 1.05 million four years ago, according to the Nielsen company. The slip is a little more pronounced among the desirable demographic of 18-to-49-year-olds.

"I do think it's time for them to get another franchise show that they can build around," said Brad Adgate, researcher for Horizon Media, "and that's easier said than done."

The experience of Honey Boo Boo did make for some interesting meetings with prospective show producers, not all of them welcome.

"We've had people pitch us with crazy people," Kaplan said. "We've said we don't feel comfortable with where that show is going to go."

Health problems that led to Thore's obesity made her an interesting character for My Big Fat Fabulous Life, but the show works because of her outsized personality. The network has done well with series on unusual families, like the Duggans of 19 Kids and Counting, and the stars of Little People, Big World. In May, TLC is premiering a series on the 14-member Willis clan, who have a country music act that was featured on NBC's America's Got Talent.

Other family-oriented series in the works are Long Lost Family, about people trying to reunite with family or friends they've grown apart from, and I Got You Babies, about first-time parents.

A new dating series, Married By Mom and Dad, follows people so unlucky in love that they're willing to let their parents set them up.

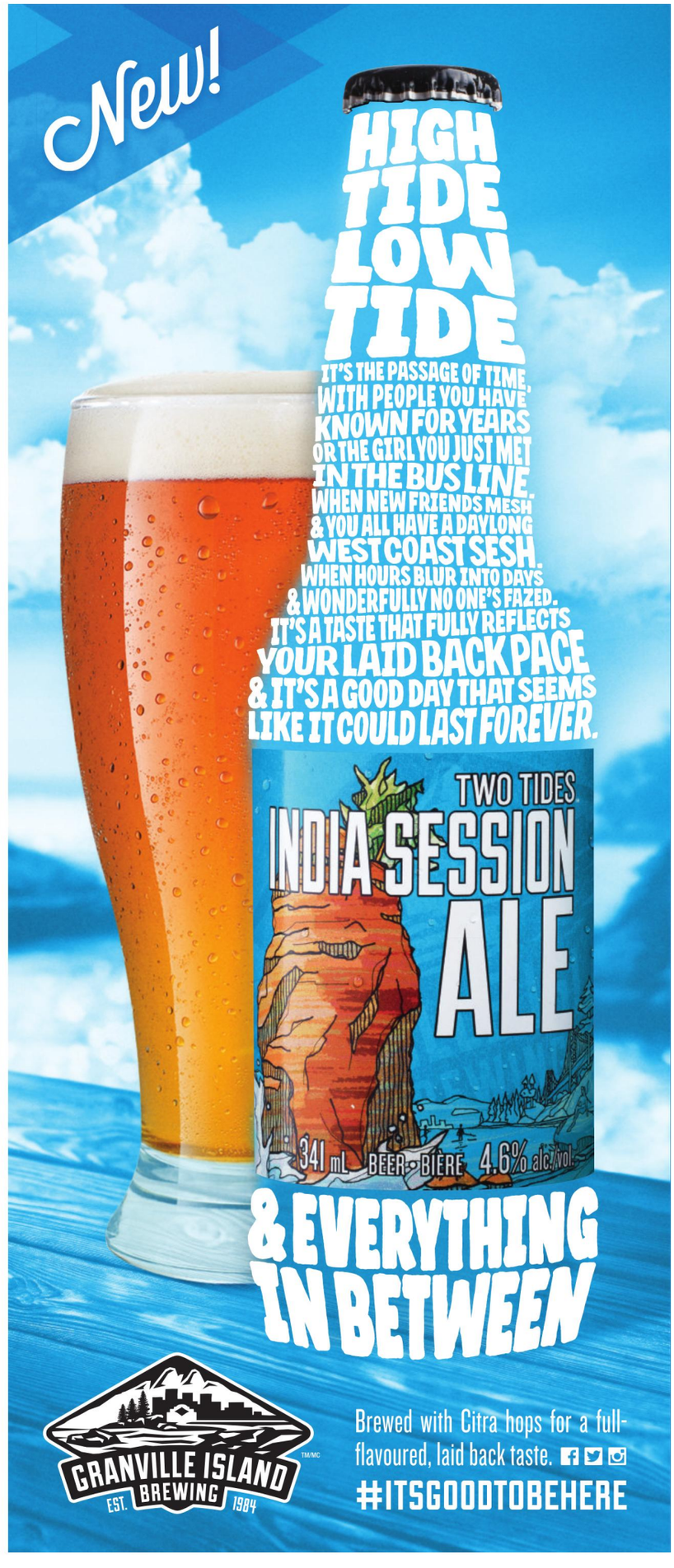
To Kaplan, the connective thread for TLC series is they ultimately have heart. In discussions about a new slogan, she was almost sheepish to suggest "everyone needs a little TLC," because it seemed so obvious.

The network can't become so heartwarming that it loses its edge, however. TLC jumped on a hot TV trend when it announced in March that it would make a new series, All That Jazz, about transgender teen Jazz Jennings and her family.

"This is a world without judgment," Kaplan said. "We put our arms around everybody."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **"It's kind of a relief to go back to something with a sense of purpose.**
> Marjorie Kaplan, president of TLC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# When your past is a blank page

RARE CONDITION

## Woman has no episodic memory, can't relive life events

When Susie McKinnon was a child, she had a stock answer when anyone asked if she remembered an event in her life.

"Not really," McKinnon, now 60, would reply.

McKinnon has no episodic memory. She can't form memories about events in her life, or relive her past by calling up images of bygone times.

The condition is called severely deficient autobiographical memory, or SDAM, a name devised by researchers at the Rotman Research Institute at Toronto's Baycrest Health Sciences Centre, who have studied McKinnon and two other people with similar memory deficits.

The Baycrest team recently published research on the newly described condition in the medical journal Neuropsychologia.

In an interview, McKinnon says she only realized her memory was different when she was 21 or so. Because she couldn't replay mental movies of her past, she made up stories, often embroidering details — some erroneous — on tales she had heard her parents or her brothers tell, or using family photos as a jumping-off point.

A friend who was studying to be a physician's assistant had an assignment to devise a quiz to detect early signs of dementia and needed someone to test it on. McKinnon's responses struck her as unusual, prompting McKinnon to start asking others if they actually remembered episodes of their past.

She was flabbergasted by the replies.

"I just assumed everyone was making up stories, because I certainly was," she says, adding she thought this was an accepted part of social interaction.

Her semantic memory — the part that allows her to learn facts — is fine. Asking if she remembers her high school prom illustrates the difference between the two types of memory.

"If you ask me about prom, I know that I didn't go to prom and I know that I decorated for prom. But that's different from remembering anything about that," she says.

McKinnon spent years, off and on, trying to find references to her type of memory issue. Before the Internet, that was tough. Nearly 10 years ago, she happened upon an article on Endel Tulving, a giant in memory studies who is a scientist emeritus at Baycrest. Tulving opined that there were probably people who don't have episodic memory — in other words, people just like McKinnon.

She eventually reached out by email to another neuroscientist at Baycrest, Brian Levine, who has since studied McKinnon.

She's ecstatic to finally have answers and to know that there are other people like her. And while in Toronto working with the Baycrest team, she got a chance to meet and thank Tulving.

"He gave me the words, he gave me the concept that matched me," she explains.

McKinnon says she has no angst about her memory deficit, though she admits to occasionally feeling wistful when she hears friends recounting experiences from their past.

Still, there are pluses. McKinnon lives in the moment and isn't plagued by self-doubts about how she handled a situation, for instance. And she's the first to admit she can't hold a grudge.

"It's impossible for me to stay mad at somebody because I don't remember," McKinnon says with a chuckle. THE CANADIAN PRESS


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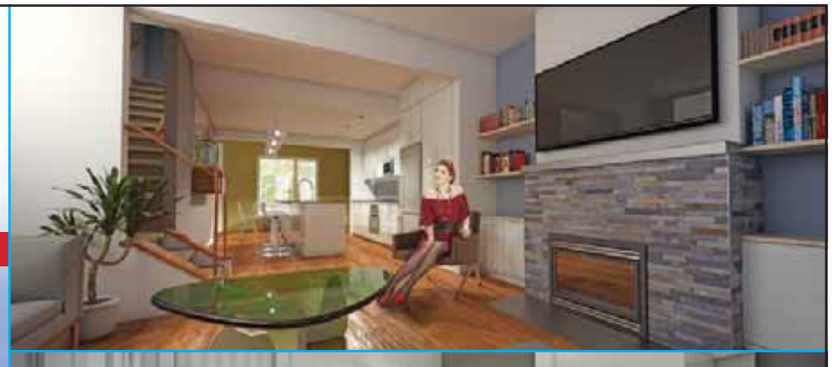

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**The Police guitarist Andy Summers, centre, with Stewart Copeland and Sting, gets profiled in the documentary Can't Stand Losing You.** CONTRIBUTED

# Looking back on The Police

FILM

## In new documentary, guitarist Andy Summers tells it like it was

**Linda Lab**
Metro

If anyone thought Andy Summers was simply The Police's guitarist, the rock doc Can't Stand Losing You: Surviving The Police puts things straight. As much as this is a story of the legendary trio — comprising Summers, Sting, and Stewart Copeland — it's Summers' story, based on his 2006 memoir One Train Later.

"When I was doing the book, I didn't want to write about The Police at all," Summers tells Metro. "It was the most difficult part to write about."

Summers narrates the film and, in between Police hits, his unobtrusive score supports the visuals.

Summers doesn't gloss over his personal and career lows, and talks freely about drugs and partying — in the doc, he and Copeland hook up with the late John Belushi at one point.

But overall, The Police's musical bond is obvious and, even when the cracks appear, the band seems dignified in their differences.

"I've never heard anyone say that about our band before," Summers chuckles at the word dignified. "But the press did portray us as three guys who hated each other 24/7. It's not true. What I like about the film is it does reveal the camaraderie and the humour ...We had too many good times and such success. Obviously, something worked."

# Now playing

COMEDY

### She's Funny That Way

**Director: Peter Bogdanovich**
**Starring: Imogen Poots, Owen Wilson**

A married Broadway director (Owen Wilson) implores a call girl to turn her life around while the star of his latest production makes a play for his wife (Kathryn Hahn) in this ensemble comedy from director Peter Bogdonavich.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

| Critics: | Audience: |
|---|---|
| No reviews yet | +83% |

DRAMA

### Avengers: Age of Ultron

**Director: Joss Whedon**
**Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans**

When Tony Stark jump-starts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go awry and Earth's Mightiest Heroes: Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, The Incredible Hulk, Black Widow and Hawkeye, are put to the ultimate test.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

| Critics: | Audience: |
|---|---|
| 73% | +99% |

COMEDY

### Ride

**Director: Helen Hunt**
**Starring: Helen Hunt, Brenton Thwaites**

In Ride, when an editor from The New Yorker (Helen Hunt) follows her son (Brenton Thwaites) to L.A. after he drops out of college to surf and find himself, she ends up being the one thrust into a sea change of self-discovery.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

| Critics: | Audience: |
|---|---|
| 88% | +86% |

DRAMA

### Elephant Song

**Director: Charles Binamé**
**Starring: Bruce Greenwood, Catherine Keener**

A doctor interviews a mental patient — whose doctor vanished — despite a nurse's warning that he is being drawn into a diabolical trap.

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# Vergara's ex makes plea to save embryos

DISPUTE

## Former fiancé of actress defends lawsuit in open letter

Actress Sofia Vergara's former fiancé says in an op-ed that he sued the Modern Family star to protect their frozen embryos because he longs to become a parent and doesn't want the "two lives" they created to "be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

Businessman Nick Loeb wrote Wednesday on NYTimes.com that as the child of divorced parents he yearned to have the kind of family depicted in artist Norman Rockwell's iconic paintings.

He said when he was in his 20s, his girlfriend had an abortion and the decision was "entirely out of my hands." Later, he married a woman with whom he tried to have children with the help of a fertility specialist. The marriage eventually ended.

When he and Vergara became engaged, he said, he began "to push for children," but she insisted they use a surrogate. He said initially two fertilized embryos were created. The first one implanted didn't take and the surrogate miscarried the second. "I felt crushed," he wrote.

Two more embryos were created before their relationship ended. He said he was willing to take full parental responsibility if Vergara didn't want to share custody, but she refused.

**Nick Loeb in 2013.** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The two had signed a form stating that any embryos they created could only be brought to term if both of them agreed. Loeb said the form didn't specifically say, as California law requires, what would happen to the embryos if they separated.

"A woman is entitled to bring a pregnancy to term even if the man objects," he said. "Shouldn't a man who is willing to take on all parental responsibilities be similarly entitled to bring his embryos to term even if the woman objects?"

Loeb said Vergara's lawyer has told reporters that she wants to keep the embryos frozen indefinitely. "In my view, keeping them frozen forever is tantamount to killing them," he said.

Vergara didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Loeb wrote that people have asked him why he doesn't just move on and have a family of his own. "I have every intention of doing so," he said. "But that doesn't mean I should let the two lives I have already created be destroyed or sit in a freezer until the end of time."

He said he takes the responsibility of being a parent seriously. "This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **This is not just about saving lives; it is also about being pro-parent.**
> Nick Loeb in an op-ed on NYTimes.com

**Sofia Vergara's ex, businessman Nick Loeb, is suing the star over their frozen embryos.** GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES

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MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

## Swift reaches out to fan battling cancer

The family of a 12-year-old Chicago girl with cancer says Taylor Swift called her to talk about music, touring and her disease.

Ed Beazley said Swift chatted with his daughter, Emily, for about 10 minutes Wednesday night.

Emily has non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Friends and family have been appealing to Swift through social media to call Emily, including a video with about 200 children singing and dancing to Swift songs.

Emily's mother, Nadia Beazley, says her daughter had "the biggest smile" and "jumped up and down" after the Grammy Award winner's call.

She says Swift's manager offered the family tickets and the opportunity to meet the singer at her Detroit concert May 30.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAREWELL TO A CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

## Lois Lilienstein funeral featured mariachi, songs and chocolate

A private funeral for beloved children's entertainer Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram was an unconventional celebration featuring a mariachi band and chocolate chips.

Lilienstein's son David says last weekend's ceremony included tears, laughter and recordings of his mother singing Little Sir Echo and Cab Calloway's Everybody Eats When They Come to My House. He says the Toronto celebration was led off by a mariachi band, which was one of her final requests, and ended with a sprinkling of chocolate chips on her grave "so she can cook her famous brownies in heaven."

Lilienstein died Wednesday after a battle with cancer. She was 78. The bubbly blond performer is credited with providing the special spark that helped make Sharon, Lois & Bram one of the biggest kids' acts of the 1980s.

David Lilienstein says details of a public memorial are still being worked out but will almost certainly include music. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Lois Lilienstein of Sharon, Lois & Bram** THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

PETS ON BOARD

After a successful pilot project, Amtrak is permanently allowing customers to travel with small pets.

# A Rocky Mountain high

## 'Really special' Abbot Pass Hut straddles Continental Divide, two provinces

If it isn't already on your bucket list, it should be. Perched in the picture-perfect Rocky Mountains is one of the oldest and highest places in Canada to lay your aching bones and happy head.

The Abbot Pass Hut is a thing of beauty itself. Swiss mountaineers chiselled square blocks of rock out of the landscape to craft what has since been designated a national historic site. And it's like nowhere else on Earth.

The building straddles the Continental Divide and the Alberta-British Columbia boundary.

"You could go out the front door and throw a snowball down one side or down the other side and that snow, that water, would end up in two different oceans," says Keith Haberl with the Alpine Club of Canada.

You can also make dinner in Alberta, he says, then walk across the hut and eat it in B.C.

"It really is a special place."

The alpine club took over the hut from Parks Canada in the 1970s. It also maintains and operates 24 others in Canada, making the network of back-country huts for hikers, mountain climbers and skiers the largest in North America.

Abbot Pass Hut's elevation is listed at 2,926 metres. So if you're coming from sea level, you'll first want to spend a few days in the area acclimating to the thinner air.

The only way to get to the trailhead is by booking a bus ride to Lake O'Hara in Yoho National Park; this year it runs June 19 through Oct. 4.

Once you're on the ground, the initial one to two hours of the hike is scenic and relatively easy. The next couple of hours is more gruelling, up a steep slope of small slippery rocks. A helmet is recommended as protection from rocks that fly from under the feet of people walking ahead.

But it's all worth it, says Haberl, who has made the trek a handful of times.

For some people, the hut is their destination. Others use it as a base and keep climbing higher. No matter your reason for being there, you get to meet strangers and swap stories in front of a cosy fire at night. Everyone sleeps together in an upstairs loft.

Sleeping pads are provided along with cooking utensils, propane stoves and propane. There's also a wood stove and a stack of firewood.

There's no plumbing. But there's nothing like melting year-round snow in a bucket for water. And the outhouse has an amazing view.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**The Abbot Pass Hut is a national historic site.**
DAVID PREISSI/HANDOUT/ CANADIAN PRESS

### IF YOU GO

**Cost, bookings and more**

The Abbot Pass Hut is open in the summer, closed in the winter.

Bookings are made through the Alpine Club of Canada office in Canmore, Alta. Call 403-678-3200, extension 0.

The cost per night is $25 for club members or $36 for non-members.

The Abbot Pass Hut can accommodate up to 24 people.

Bring your own food and sleeping bag.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAVEL TIPS

# Airbnb hosts should cultivate trust and safety

ON THE MOVE
**Loren Christie**

Three days ago a Calgary couple cut their vacation short after neighbours called to let them know their Airbnb renters were trashing their home. The couple is now faced with up to $75,000 in damages.

As terrible as this couple's experience has been, it's important to remember this is an anomaly.

In Canada there are more than 18,000 people using this industry-leading accommodation-sharing website and worldwide more than 35 million guests have stayed with Airbnb. According to Airbnb spokesman Jakob Kerr, "property damage is extremely rare."

One of the hallmarks of the site is the user reviews of both potential hosts and guests.

These reviews allow sides to vet each other based on referrals and past experiences.

According to Aaron Zifkin, the country manager for Canada, "the secret sauce of Airbnb is trust and safety."

Airbnb has said it has zero tolerance for the behaviour of the Calgary guests and banned them from renting again through the website.

If you are still eager to make some extra money and wouldn't mind having strangers sleeping in your space, this incident should be viewed as a good lesson but not a reason to never use Airbnb.

In addition to vetting potential guests through the user reviews, make sure to fill out the house rules section so your guests can understand what is expected of them before booking. Do they have to arrive before dinner? Is it lights out after midnight? Are pets allowed? Be comfortable saying no if something just doesn't seem right. You are under no obligation to host everyone.

Make sure to check on local bylaws. Various jurisdictions, such as the province of Quebec, are looking at how to regulate this rapidly growing industry. Remember that any damage, as is the case for the Calgary homeowners, is covered under Airbnb's million-dollar insurance policy.

The sad part about this incident is it takes away from the fact the overwhelming majority of Airbnb experiences are extremely positive. It costs nothing to sign up for a free listing. Airbnb also offers a free photography service where a photographer will come to your home and take professional pictures of your property. Plus you get the chance to meet interesting people from around the world.

If you are a person who will never cruise again because of a Norwalk virus outbreak on a cruise ship, then Airbnb may not be for you. The bottom line is you have to be comfortable with the idea of strangers in your home.

## TRAVEL NOTES

**Ireland's Ashford Castle gets a reno**
Luxury brand Red Carnation Hotels has finished work on Ashford Castle in Co. Mayo, in the west of Ireland. The castle dates back to 1228. The renovation included the addition of a 32-seat cinema, billiard room, cigar terrace and children's games room. Home to the Guinness family for more than 100 years, the castle has welcomed the likes of King George V, singer Barbra Streisand and actor John Travolta. Visit AshfordCastle.com.

**Bucket List: Grace Bay Club**
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, sets the scene for this little paradise, one of the first all-oceanfront suite resorts in the Caribbean. With more than 1,000 feet of beach and three levels of accommodation, Grace Bay offers watersports, golf, tennis, horseback riding, and being waited on hand and foot. This retreat is also home to the Caribbean Food and Wine Festival each year. Visit GraceBayResorts.com. DOUG WALLACE

# Black Forest: stuff of fairytales

GERMANY

## Area houses camping spot, mountains and famous cake

A waterfall in Triberg, Germany, serves as a backdrop for a stroll in the Black Forest area. SIOBHAN STARRS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**IF YOU GO**
Daily $2.70 CDN fee for all visitors age 18 and over, which covers use of Black Forest trains and buses.

The Black Forest gets its name from a canopy of trees so dense that the woods seem dark, pierced only by shafts of sunlight. Mushrooms sprout across the damp forest floor. Red squirrels scamper up the towering trees; streams tumble over rocks.

No wonder this magical place inspired so many Grimms' fairytales. But the bleak name Black Forest — Schwarzwald in German — does not capture its beauty.

**Mountainous area**

You can camp near the village of Enzklosterle (muellerwiese.de), in one of hundreds of valleys scattered across the forest's mountainous expanse.

Bring your own tent or RV (RV rentals are available at the Frankfurt airport); rent a tent, cabin or apartment; or choose from a variety of hotels

The forest stretches across 6,000 square kilometres in the southwest of Germany, an easy trip from Frankfurt.

But this is no spa resort, and the mountains beckon. There are paths here of all types, from gentle strolls to demanding long-distance hikes, all well-signed and maintained. The region is also popular with mountain bikers.

Mushrooms of all shapes, sizes and shades emerge from rotting tree stumps and leaves in vivid crimsons, delicate corals, black, brown, purple and orange. You mustn't try them without expert guidance though; like potions in a Grimm Brothers story, they might be poison.

On a rainy day, drive an hour to medieval Schiltach and another half-hour to the town of Triberg.

Traditional half-timbered houses — with gabled roofs and framed windows forming distinctive geometric patterns on the building facades — add to the fairy-tale look of the towns. Triberg also boasts three claims to fame: cuckoo clocks, Black Forest cake and Germany's highest waterfalls.

**Shopping, sightseeing**

The waterfall trails are busy with visitors watching the Gutach river plunge in seven cascades, more than 160 metres into the valley below. For a taste of Old World charm, why not window-shop for cuckoo clocks. Prices range from $27 CDN for the tiniest clock, to more than $1,350 for a large carved timepiece.

On the outskirts of town, visit what is billed as the world's largest cuckoo clock. For just two euros you can have a tour of its mechanisms.

The Black Forest's culinary showstopper demands to be tasted. Triberg claims the original recipe of the famous Black Forest cherry cake, which is not as sweet as variations elsewhere, but offers a light chocolatey sponge, soaked in cherry schnapps, filled with cream and cherries, and topped with chocolate shavings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# 5

Mumbai is affectionately dubbed The Gateway to India, welcoming millions of tourists each year who are keen to tap into the nation's largest city. Uncover Mumbai's hip haunts and quirky attractions with these top tips.

ANDREW JOHN VIRTUE DOBSON FOR METRO

COLABA SOCIAL

## Colaba Social

If you're keen on checking out a funky restaurant and also have an interest in sitting with locals to chat over the latest cricket match, then head to Colaba Social. The restaurant is where local hipsters and the city's fashion fans come to sip on ginger-spiked margaritas and nibble on spicy dishes such as Goan Prawn Curry and Pulled Tandoori Chicken Makhani Bao.

## Elephanta Island

Mumbai's most popular day trip for those looking to get out of the city undoubtedly starts with an hour-long ferry ride to Elephanta Island. Populated only by a small fishing community, it was originally known as Gherapura, the "city of Ghara priests", until the Portuguese renamed the island in the 16th century in honour of the carved elephant they found at the port. Its chief attraction is its unique cave temple, whose massive Trimurti (three-faced) Shiva sculpture is as fine an example of Hindu architecture as you'll find anywhere.

## Abode Bombay

The Abode Bombay boutique hotel shines brightest as a leader in social responsibility, selling a colourful array of trinkets in a gift shop that supports local non-government organizations, empowering women by working with a women-run taxi company (whose drivers are in many cases single mothers and the sole earners in their family), and supporting a school for the blind.

## Dhobi Ghat

Mumbai's most unusual attraction is the Dhobi Ghat, an open-air laundromat where washers work in the open to clean the clothes and linens from local hotels, hospitals and households. Enjoy a magical tour of the famed al fresco laundry village while watching suds fly as a rainbow of linens gently sway in the wind.

## Taj Hotel

Top off the perfect day by indulging in high tea at the city's iconic Taj Hotel. Enjoy a stunning view overlooking the harbour as the sun sets across India's own Arc de Triomphe, the towering Gateway to India.

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metro SPORTS

Sidney Crosby will be Canada's captain at the world championship in Prague

WEEKEND, May 1-3, 2015

**The Flames' Sam Bennett stumbles into Ducks goaltender Frederik Andersen during Game 1 of their second-round playoff series on Thursday in Anaheim.** JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Flames fall in deep end of Pond

NHL PLAYOFFS

## Ducks show no signs of rust after a layoff of eight days

Jonas Hiller was pulled after allowing three goals in the first 22:13 as the Calgary Flames dropped the opening game of their second-round series against the Anaheim Ducks 6-1 on Thursday night.

Corey Perry had two goals and two assists and Ryan Getzlaf scored once and set up three more for the Ducks, who showed no signs of rust after an eight-day layoff following their sweep of the Winnipeg Jets.

Emerson Etem, Matt Beleskey and Patrick Maroon also scored.

**GAME 1 In Anaheim**

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Perry has an NHL-best 11 points this post-season.

Sam Bennett had the Flames' lone goal at 9:16 in the third period, the rookie's third of the post-season.

Hiller, the Ducks' goaltender from 2007 to 2014 before signing with the Flames as a free agent this season, was derisively serenaded with chants from the opening faceoff.

The jeers only intensified before Hiller was replaced by Karri Ramo early in the second period after Perry put the Ducks ahead 3-0 on a wraparound shot.

Hiller made 11 saves, and Ramo stopped 18 shots. Frederik Andersen made 23 saves for the Ducks.

Game 2 is Sunday night at Honda Center.

Micheal Ferland absorbed several big hits in the first period and did not return to the game, while Jiri Hudler left in the second.

The Flames' best chance to stave off the rout came on their first shot, a Josh Jooris breakaway just 2:05 into the game. But Andersen made the save, and the Ducks were in control the rest of the way.

Beleskey put the Ducks on top 1-0 at the 10:17 mark of the first period, capitalizing on a gaping net thanks to a pass from Kyle Palmieri. Maroon doubled the lead 2:54 later with a backhand goal.

That dominance, including a 12-8 advantage in shots, might have been even more pronounced if not for two minor penalties to Perry.

The Flames managed only one shot with the man advantage in the first, and have scored on only one of their nine power plays away from home this post-season.

Etem converted a Francois Beauchemin miss into the Ducks' fourth goal midway through the second period, Perry added his second of the game 44 seconds into the third period on the power play, and Getzlaf piled on 2:48 later with another power-play goal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN NEW YORK

**Rangers right-winger Martin St. Louis, front, and Capitals defenceman John Carlson battle for the puck on Thursday in New York.** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Capitals beat the buzzer and the Rangers

Joel Ward scored with 1.3 seconds left to give the Washington Capitals a 2-1 victory over the New York Rangers on Thursday night in Game 1 of their second-round series.

Ward drove to the net and tapped Alex Ovechkin's feed past Henrik Lundqvist. After the goal was confirmed by replay, Ovechkin kissed Ward on the cheek.

Ovechkin also scored for Washington while Jesper Fast had New York's only goal.

Game 2 is Saturday at Madison Square Garden.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# A Saturday as big as it gets

MAYWEATHER-PACQUIAO

## Fight of the century not only event to anticipate

The most-anticipated fight of all time; the best-known horse race; the premier baseball rivalry; the NFL draft: Those are just the highlights.

Super Saturday — perhaps a day unlike any other in the history of sport — awaits.

Stock the refrigerator, replace the remote batteries, get the weekend errands done early, invite your friends, fire up that grill and if you're very fortunate, confirm those flights. For the sports consumer, an amazing number of options will be available.

From the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao fight that could generate $400 million and topple every known record in boxing history, to the 141st edition of the Kentucky Derby, to the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox colliding for the 2,142nd time to the NFL draft's finishing rounds and so much more, it's a sports enthusiast's dream.

The fight in Las Vegas is overshadowing all, with good reason.

"I don't plan on being there," said Masters champion Jordan Spieth, "but I may be."

Here's the translation. Spieth is playing in the Match Play Championship at San Francisco — another really big event that won't generate much of a blip this weekend because of everything else happening in the sports world. If he's ousted before Saturday, his consolation prize is a trip to Vegas.

The pay-per-view for the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight will cost around $100 to watch in your home. JOHN GURZINSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"There are tickets," Spieth said.

Tickets, yes — ones he doesn't want to use, but at least he has them. Most people didn't have a chance at getting into the MGM Grand this weekend, and some deep-pocketed folks have spent more than $250,000 for a pair of prime seats.

**52**

**The fight will be broadcast in at least 52 countries, and who knows how many will be able to access it online globally.**

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer.

He meant the spectacle surrounding the fight.

He could have just as easily been talking about the worldwide hubbub of what awaits on Super Saturday.

"It's time to fight now ... the biggest fight in boxing history," Mayweather said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## DREAM DAY

**THE DERBY**

A field of 20 will run for the roses at Churchill Downs. About $125 million was bet on the Derby last year, more than 160,000 fans are expected at Churchill and it's not implausible to think that 15 million or so will watch on TV in the U.S. alone.

**THE PLAYOFFS**

The NHL playoffs continue, with Washington and the New York Rangers in Game 2. Depending on what happened Thursday, there's a chance the NBA could see one or two Game 7s to end the first round.

**FOR EVERYONE ELSE**

Real Madrid face Sevilla in a very big Spanish soccer match, NASCAR has qualifying at Talladega on Saturday, no small event on its schedule either. There's an LPGA tournament, plus Detroit and Kansas City are squaring off in a matchup of two of baseball's best teams early this season.

NBA

# Wiggins named rookie of the year

Dressed in a navy blue tuxedo with shiny black lapels, Andrew Wiggins certainly looked the part while collecting his NBA rookie of the year award Thursday.

The Canadian phenom looked even better on the court in his first season in the league.

The Vaughan, Ont., native received 110 of 130 first-place votes and had 604 points in the voting. Chicago's Nikola Mirotic finished second with 14 first-place votes and 335 points.

"It means a lot to me. I know it means a lot to the organization and there's a whole lot of history," Wiggins said. "It should bring a lot of hope for the future of the Minnesota Timberwolves. It should give people a different look at things. This is the uprising. We've got a lot of young talent."

After coming to the Timberwolves in the trade that sent Kevin Love to Cleveland, Wiggins averaged 16.9 points and 4.6 rebounds while playing all 82 games.

Wiggins was drafted No. 1 overall by the Cavaliers last summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andrew Wiggins

BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## IN BRIEF

**NHL playoff ratings up**

The big winner through the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs may be Rogers Media.

The Toronto-based company, which paid $5.2 billion for exclusive national rights to all NHL games for 12 years, saw ratings jump 36 per cent over last season's first round, according to Canadian ratings company Numeris.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Bulls falls short of record but earn series victory**

Mike Dunleavy scored 20 points and the Chicago Bulls came close to an NBA playoff record, finally putting away the Milwaukee Bucks with a 120-66 victory in Game 6 to clinch their first-round series Thursday night.

The Bulls, who move on to face the Cleveland Cavaliers in the second round, finished four points away from the NBA playoff record for largest margin of victory. Minnesota beat St. Louis 133-75 on March 19, 1956.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Buccaneers hope draft pick Winston will brighten future**

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are counting on Jameis Winston to help them become relevant again.

The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback was selected with the first overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night, instantly becoming the face of a franchise that missed the playoffs the past seven seasons and hasn't won a post-season game since the club's Super Bowl run in 2002. Coach Lovie Smith and Jason Licht made the call, concluding after months of interviews and exhaustive research that Winston, 21, not only can be the answer to team's offensive woes, but that he has learned from off-the-field mistakes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


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# RECIPE Chicken Morsels with Rice Noodles and Sesame Sauce

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

**Ready in**
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 11 minutes

**Ingredients**
Serves 4
- 1 lb skinless boneless chicken thighs, diced
- 1 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp rice vinegar
- 3 Tbsp low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp molasses
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp hot chili paste (or to taste)
- 6 oz medium rice noodles (¼ inch wide)
- 1½ cups thinly sliced red or yellow bell pepper
- 1½ cups thinly sliced snow or sugar snap peas
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or parsley
- 2 tsp sesame seeds, toasted
- Fresh bean sprouts and chopped red onion (optional)

**Directions**
**1.** Place chicken, soy sauce and cornstarch in a bowl; stir till well combined. Add oil to large non-stick wok and sauté chicken 4 minutes, until almost cooked. Remove and set aside. Wipe out the pan.

**2.** For sauce, combine stock, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar, molasses, cornstarch, sesame oil and chili paste in a small bowl; stir until well combined.

**3.** Cook noodles in boiling water 2 minutes. Drain and set aside.

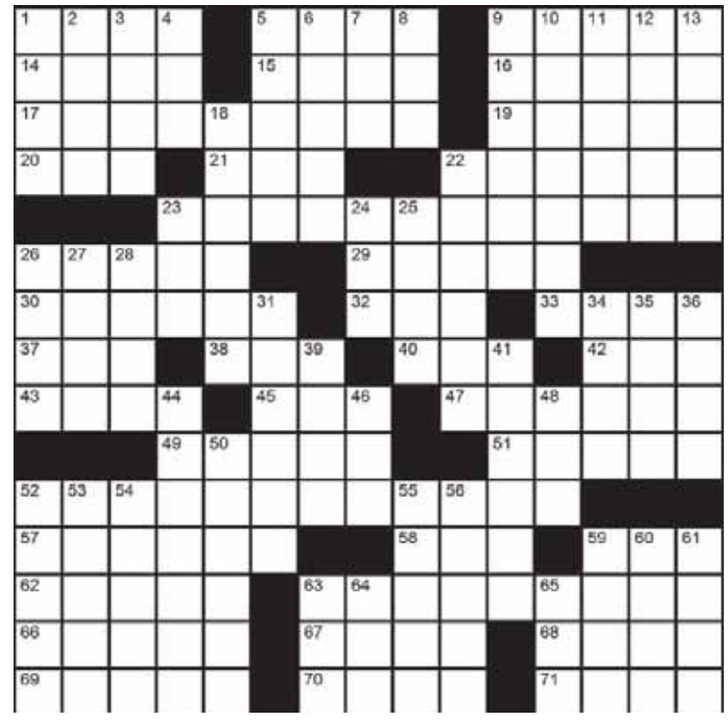
**4.** Respray wok with cooking oil and add peppers and peas. Sauté 2 minutes, stir in the sauce and chicken. Cook, stirring, for about 1 minute, until the sauce has thickened. Add the rice noodles and heat thoroughly, about 2 minutes. Serve on a large platter garnished with cilantro or parsley and sesame seeds. Scatter bean sprouts and onion overtop, if desired.

**Nutrition information per serving**
- Calories 317
- Protein 40 g
- Fat 11 g
- Saturated fat 2 g
- Carbohydrates 16 g
- Cholesterol 148 mg
- Sodium 506 mg
- Fibre 1.9 g

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. Facial arch
5. Adhere
9. Chunks
14. Hawkeye State
15. Lima's land
16. Engraved head necklace piece
17. Iron Man's alter ego in the new Robert Downey Jr. superhero movie at #30-Across: 2 wds.
19. Canadian singer Eva of "Bitter Meets Sweet"
20. First aid team, e.g.
21. She alternative
22. Portland's state
23. Carey Mulligan's new movie based on the 1874 Thomas Hardy novel, "Far from the __ __" (2015)
26. Shock weapon
29. The Carpenters songstress
30. "Avengers: Age of __" (2015)
32. Centre
33. Inscribe
37. Furthermore
38. __ King Cole
40. Pharaoh snake
42. Shed tool
43. Beehive State
45. __-i-Noor Diamond
47. Journalist's informative contact
49. Thwart
51. Regular
52. "Rough Hands" and "This Could Be Anywhere in the World" band from St. Catharines, ON
57. Best Buy purchase
58. 'Germ' add-on (Relevant)
59. Ouest's opposite
62. 'Punny' joke reaction
63. Sport for Harry Potter
66. Befuddle
67. Commedia dell'__
68. Lei-wearer's party
69. BC: Island of the Haida Gwaii archipelago
70. Pizza __ (Product by frozen meals brand Michelina's)
71. Nice

**DOWN**
1. Chomp
2. Leeway
3. Possesses
4. Method
5. Chose
6. Shaver's target
7. Be mistaken
8. Little laugh
9. Hard to come by
10. "__ & Shirley"
11. Friend
12. Under
13. __-__-so
18. __, Lois & Bram
22. Shrek's beloved Fiona, for one
23. Sea: French
24. Pres. Eisenhower
25. "Glee" actress Ms. Rivera
26. Ballet skirt
27. Much: 2 wds.
28. Ancient portico
31. Village in BC known for its hot springs
34. Drive-__
35. __-Cola
36. Scoundrel
39. "What's Love Got __ __ with It" by Tina Turner
41. Served the orange juice
44. Ron __ (Brandon, MB born goalie who is currently GM of the Philadelphia Flyers)
46. Farm bird
48. Function
50. Mr. Richie, Nicole's dad
52. Pertaining to a pond's green film
53. Greasy
54. Lyric poem
55. Stefano __, Canadian celebrity chef
56. Book's reference section
59. Dainty case
60. Skim over
61. Dull sound
63. '_' __ in Quebec
64. Vase
65. Type

# IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
Mercury's change of sign today urges a change in attitude on your part. Try taking a step back from what you have been stressing about over the past few weeks.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
The more others try to change your way of looking at things the more you will dig in your heels, and you are right to resist. Only you know what is best for you and your instincts tell you this is a time for consolidation, not change.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
It is time to seize the initiative, declare your independence and start something new. With Mercury, your ruler, moving into your own sign today you can be sure that whatever you begin will be stamped with the mark of success.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
There are times when you are quite unsociable and this is one of them. By all means spend some time by yourself to think things through and decide what your next major move is going to be.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Social activities are under excellent stars at the moment, so take time out of your busy schedule to have fun with friends. Also, if there is some kind of cause or social movement that is close to your heart now is the time to get more involved.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you are not making career plans then you should be. Don't think only in terms of earning money and moving up the corporate ladder, think too about making a difference.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a good time to be on the move but if work and family commitments keep you stuck in one place you can at least make vacation plans for later in the year. Go somewhere exotic.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Mind planet Mercury moves into one of the more secretive areas of your chart today, so chances are you won't have much to say for yourself and what you do say will be deliberately misleading. Just watch out you don't mislead yourself.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Partners and loved ones will have plenty to say for themselves today and not all of it will be music to your ears, but do listen. Once they have let off steam things will quickly get back to normal.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
A task you have been putting off for ages will have to be dealt with over the next few days. Then you can turn your attention to more enjoyable things.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't worry if your confidence has been a bit low in recent weeks because as from today you will be much more positive about your long-term prospects. It's always a great time to be you, but now more so than ever.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
A needy individual may get on your nerves but being the nice guy you are you will do what you can to help them. But make sure they know that this is not going to become a regular thing. Sooner or later they have to get a grip.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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